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**Roadside Rendezvous
With Death** *page 22*

Turk-Kurd Blowup Imminent? *page 13*

Marines' Longest Kill *page 38*

Benefits of 'Hot' Ranges *page 46*

New Taurus DAO Pistol *page 68*

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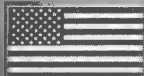
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AMERICA AT WAR

TURK-KURD BLOWUP IMMINENT by Dr. Martin Brass 14
ROADSIDE RENDEZVOUS WITH DEATH by Col. Frank van der Waal 22
TERRORISM SITREP by Dr. Martin Brass 36
THE LONGEST KILL by Dale B. Cooper 38
MEDAL OF HONOR - SFC PAUL R. SMITH 41

FEATURES

LT. COL. FRANK EGAN by Don Bohning 20
ROADBLOCKS AND AMBUSHES by Howard B. Linett, Esq. 28
LITTLE TURTLE by Alan H. Brown 32
THE MORAL OBLIGATION TO TRAIN LIKE YOU FIGHT by Max Fidelis 46
SOLDIER OF FORTUNE RECOGNIZED AT CPAC by Dr. Martin Brass 60
TAURUS REPORTING FOR DUTY by Gary Paul Johnston 68
"BE NOT AFRAID" by Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.) 82

COLUMNS

COMMAND GUIDANCE by Lt. Col. R.K. Brown, USAR (Ret.) 6
FLAK 8
BULLETIN BOARD 12
COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT by John Farnam 34
ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER 72

On The Cover
The war on terror found its first Medal of Honor recipient in SFC Paul R. Smith.



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Supply Depot 55
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Advertisers' Index 57



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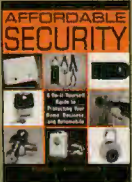


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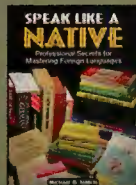
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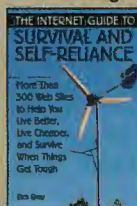
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

ROBERT K. BROWN

Snuffy Meets the SpecOps

Kenn Miller, author of Tiger the LRRP Dog, recently wrote us:

I spent most of yesterday with a sensible young E-4 Cav scout just back from Iraq after a tour with 1/7th Cav, 1st Cav Division. It was very interesting to hear him talk about his war and his Army – which in many ways is very different from what we knew, but in many ways very much the same.

His take on the U.S. special operations people he had contact with was very interesting. At one time or another, his troop worked as transport and/or blocking force for a SEAL Team, Delta, and 5th Group, and one platoon from his troop spent a couple months or so on detached duty as transport and back-up for an ODA. His entire squadron loathed the SEALs, who came in driving dark (and conspicuously intimidating) vehicles that looked like something the crew at Pimp My Ride had customized for Darth Vader. They were arrogant and contemptuous of everyone who wasn't a SEAL, even to the point of cutting in lines in the PX, and they were very trigger-happy. At one point they were working in his squadron's sector in Baghdad, trying to sneak around in the city, and of course someone saw them – as someone is bound to do when a group of men is making a big show of sneaking around in a city where people actually live. When they realized they'd been seen and felt themselves compromised, they opened fire 360, and killed a civilian, wounded another, and considered these legitimate kills.

This was a sector that 1/7 worked in regularly, and where they had very good relations with the residents – until the SEALs came along and acted like Bob Kerrey's (D-Nebraska) squad allegedly did on that night recon that came to light a few years back, overreacting when they discovered that their cloak of invisibility wasn't working, and hosing every moving thing in sight.

It took lots of work, lots of Civic Action and perfect behavior to overcome what the frogs had done. "Delta was something else,"

he said. "They wore civilian clothes, some of them beards, some clean-shaven. They were slightly aloof, but not out of any personal need to be superior, just because they couldn't talk in detail about what they were up to." They impressed the hell out of the Cav scouts, and afterwards complimented them for keeping just enough distance from them when they were operating, saying that too often conventional troops tried to stay too close.

The "regular" SF, these Cav guys absolutely loved. This young E-4 said, "the Green Berets were incredibly competent and knowledgeable and very willing to share what they knew." They lived very well and the platoon temporarily co-located with them, lived like kings and were treated like brothers by these Green Berets, and the Iraqis seemed to really trust them. Whenever one of the Cav guys thanked them for anything, the SF guys would say something along the lines of "Nah, we don't really mean to be nice guys. It's just an act we're putting on because we're very under-strength and over-tasked, and so we're trying to recruit good men away from their units. Any of you guys want to come to SF, you'll find out that we're all real assholes." Obviously, this left the Cav scouts feeling complimented, and not believing a word of it.

Just thought you might want to know what sort of impression your successors are making on at least part of the regular army. The impression they left on the 101st LRS [Long Range Surveillance] they spent some time with back at Campbell last year was even deeper – but then, the LRS guys knew 5th Group very well and already liked them. But when 5th Group helped them do some work with the Kurds... well, that was a recruiting ploy that worked so well a third of the unit was in Selection or the Q course within two months of returning from Iraq. That little taste of the side of the SF mission that SF didn't have in common with the Ranger community (which roughly includes LRS) really struck a chord with them. ✘

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Now that America is well into the second term for President George W. Bush, SOF should give itself a pat on the back. You will recall that you ran a series of articles written by "Junius" before the 2000 presidential election, in which the author emphasized the importance of that election and that every single vote would make a difference. As it turned out, the margin of victory for President Bush was in Florida, where SOF has more subscribers than the 537-vote margin by which the President carried Florida. Thus, SOF deserves some credit for restoring the White House to the Republicans. Imagine the outcome if Al Gore had been President on September 11, 2001.

Likewise, in July 2004, SOF published an article in which I told of the impact that John Kerry's anti-war activities had on me while I was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. This was circulated on the internet and helped to stir interest by other Vietnam veterans in taking action to stop Kerry. Vietnam veterans across the country were energized to get out and vote to keep Kerry, out of the White House. Ultimately, I believe that it was the hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans, along with millions of their family members and friends, who gave George W. Bush his convincing win over Kerry. The difference that this will make in the war on terror will be incalculable. Congratulations on your 30th anniversary. Hope SOF's around another 30.



Sincerely,
James H. Warner, Esq.

Great Article on AA12

However, why 12 gauge? My son and I collect 10 gauge magnum shotguns, and think they are the ideal military load. Admittedly he and I are 6'2" 250 lb and 6'4" 220 lb respec-

tively, but so are many modern soldiers (we were both RAs). Besides, a really modern muzzle brake would tame the kick to a major extent. We both have in our collections 20" single-barrel 10 gauges (former 36") with massive barrel thickness pierced with 12 each 1/16-inch holes in upper three quadrants near the muzzles. That makes a major difference! The 12 gauge shell throws somewhat over 1 ounce of shot, the 10 gauge 3½-inch load throws roughly 2 ounces at a higher velocity. That is a lot higher payload.

The 10 gauge would still offer cheap practice firing, yet deliver much more explosive (shaped charge or squish head) to the target. My civilian buckshot loads hold 54, #4 buck. I figure that would discourage the hell out of a house invader. Even with a bullet-resistant vest, the blunt impact trauma would be serious. Without vest, the wall behind the perp would need serious cleaning.



Respectfully,
Phil Bancroft (brown boot army, small arms repairman,
88th Ordnance Company)

If starting from a clean slate, there might be a lot going for a 10 gauge as a military arm, especially with modern loads, muzzle-braking techniques, etc. — but if you are going to sell a new weapon design to an established market, your chances of success are exponentially less if you do not offer it in a caliber already in the logistics pipeline. The AA12 represents some brilliant design and engineering work, but to do it over in 10 gauge would require that it be re-done almost from scratch — it would not be a simple matter as is converting an arm to a new caliber with a similar case configuration, recoil impulse and pressure curve.

Right Dogs?

With all due respect to the magnificent dogs our military utilizes, for Iraq-Afghanistan and other such torrid regions, our government is using the wrong dogs!

One simply does not subject/work a shepherd — Czech or otherwise — to 140-degree conditions. This is abuse of the animal (hell, it's abuse of the human!) There is a breed that would be ideal for these working conditions, the Rhodesian

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Ridgeback. This dog can easily work in sub-freezing to very high temps; the Rhodesian is camel-like in his water requirements; the Rhodesian has bloodhound blood, and thus a very fine nose.

This breed may be a bit harder to train, owing to a genetic heritage developed by a need for it to be capable of intelligent independent action — but it is a fiercely loyal animal. I had one for 14-1/2 years and would have no other breed, we knew each other's mind, and I could count on this animal to protect the "pack" (our family) with his life.

The Rhodesian Ridgeback evolved as a breed in the African veldt and is the best adapted breed for the working conditions described in your article.

Sincerely,
John Pierre-Benoist

Merc POWs?

I have been reading your magazine for two years now and I love it. I really liked the sections in the last couple of issues about the mercenaries that got caught in Equatorial Guinea and Zimbabwe. I found these articles really interesting, but they also pissed me off. After reading about what happened to Du Toit, it made me want to fly over at that minute and take out that President Obiang and all the other corrupt members of the government and then go and free those mercenaries and kick everybody else's ass. But seriously, is there something that can be done to help those guys? Can't some special forces sneak down there and break them out? Why is it that every country in Africa that is ruled by a corrupt leader, can't anybody stand up for themselves anymore without the U.S.

having to get involved? Anyway, enough of my rambling, I was just wondering what your opinion was on those mercenaries that were captured.

Steve Ashwood

Being abandoned when your team doesn't persevere goes with the territory in the Merc business, just like getting shot — only worse.

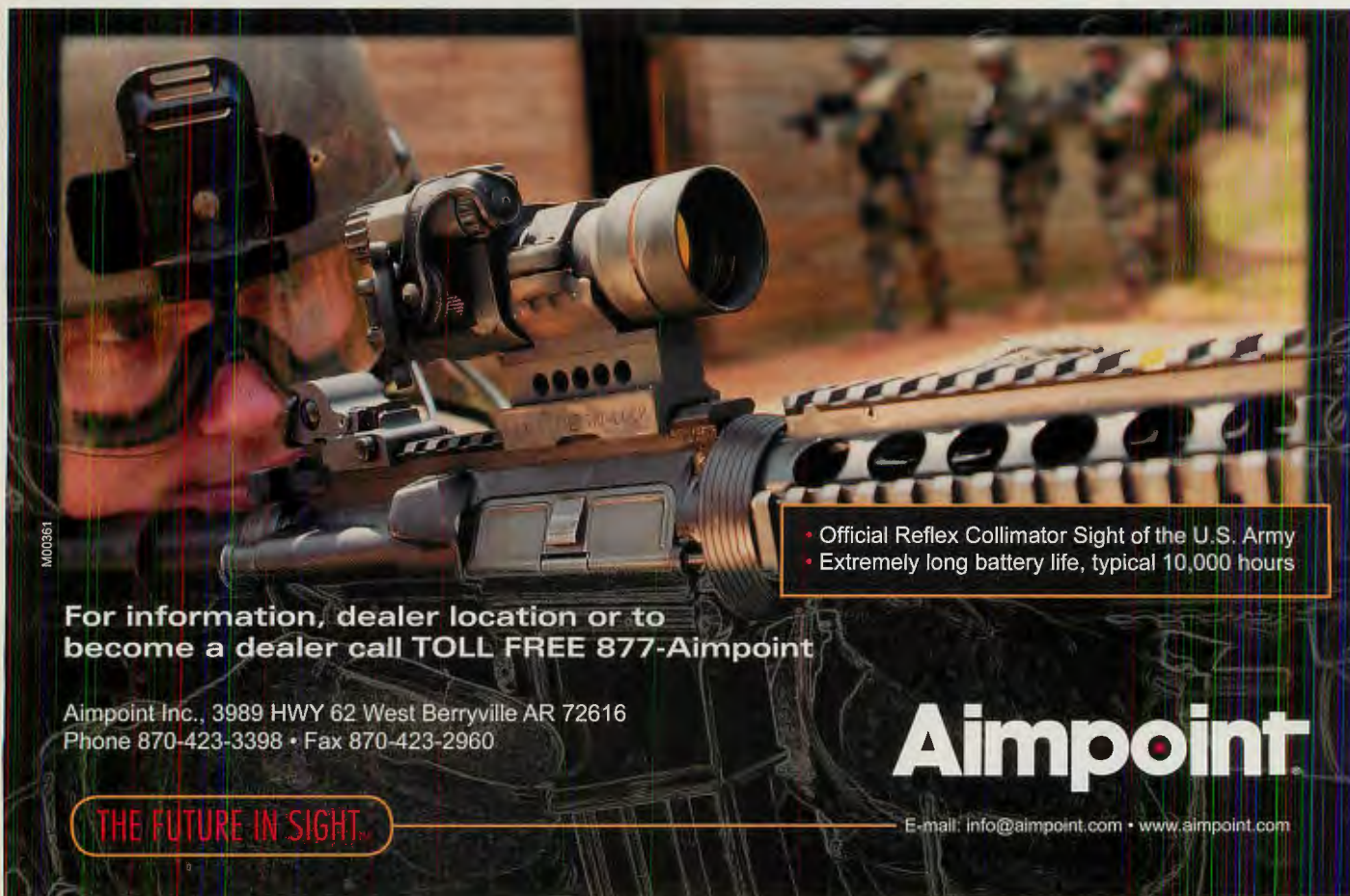
Contract Work, Iraq

First of all let me say I love your magazine, it was a God-send send while I was deployed to Iraq. I was looking through my stack of your mags and I came upon the December 2004 Issue cover story "Team Shark Rocks." I was wondering if any of you know websites to find jobs as a Security Operator over in Iraq. I'm thinking about going back, and I hope you can help me again.

Spc Chris Somers

There have been a good number of former GIs who have returned to Iraq to work for various contractors, in all job fields from medicine, to transportation, to construction to security work. It has been my understanding that those who found work either did so through personal contacts, or by inquiring of contractors who had established web sites for the purpose of recruitment. We neither recommend going over as a contractor,

Continued on page 76



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Commander's Warrior Challenge

The Commander, 94th Regional Readiness Command, Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, Ayer, Mass., will host the 2005 Commander's Warrior Challenge matches 15-18 September. Featuring events such as the Combat Excellence in Competition Matches and the Close Quarters Engagement Matches, the competition will be fired with the M16A2 rifle, and M9 and M11 pistols. It is open to military competitors on active, Reserve or Guard status. Over the past 10 years these matches have grown into a premier event, and as the competition's host, MajGen Dennis Laich, noted, "In addition to providing some spirited competition, this will significantly increase your ability to survive on the modern battlefield."

Entries are by individual and 4-person team. Confirmed enrollments must be received by 3 September 2005. Copies of the Match Program, including entry forms, are available from the match NCOIC MSG Alan Jerauld, phone: 978-784-3742 or by e-mail at alan.a.jerauld@us.army.mil.

Pools of Blood?

In his book *Freakonomics*, rogue economist Steven Levitt tells of his experience going to a support group for parents who had lost children. His own son died of meningitis as an infant. He was amazed to find how many kids died of drowning, and decided to look into it. His exhaustive study revealed that there is a one-hundred-times greater risk of childhood mortality in a house that has a swimming pool than in one that has a gun. And, of course, limiting the study to swimming pools fails to take into account the additional infant drowning in buckets, toilets, wading pools and bathtubs.

In light of the forgoing, I am astounded that Democrats have not moved to ban private swimming pools, as, in addition to the above, they are mostly owned by the "rich people" whom Democrats claim to hate so vehemently (unless, of course, they work in the entertainment industry). It's a good thing the anti-gun segment of the Democratic Party continues to steadfastly refuse to let facts cloud their judgment. — *John Farnam*

Train Like A Mad Man, Fight Like A Demon

Anybody who takes a knife to a gunfight had better be good with it. And it'd better be a good knife. Ernest Emerson, originator of the good-as-it-gets line of Emerson knives, taught a high-intensity "Surviving the Deadly Attack" edged weapons/fighting class May 21-22 in conjunction with Combat Research and Development Group, hosted by Extreme Outfitters of Virginia Beach. The course offered leading-edge



Americans can honor the service personnel who have, or are fighting, to preserve our freedoms and liberties at home and abroad, thanks to a new VFW "America Bands Together" program. The VFW's new commemorative bracelet, engraved with "I Support Our Troops," is blood red to symbolize the sacrifices of our present and former veterans who have help keep America free.

One of the first to don the bracelet was NFL Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton, who said he plans to wear the wristband 24/7 as a visible show of support for America's men and women in uniform. "I don't ever want our heroes to have to wonder if people at home care about them," said the former Minnesota Vikings quarterback.

The bands, which are available for a nominal fee from <http://www.AmericaBandsTogether.org> will help fund VFW support and morale-boosting programs for veterans, military service members and their families.

To find out more about the VFW, go to: <http://www.vfw.org>. They're a first-rate outfit, and always have been.

technique, but no mercy nor quarter. For information on the next course, contact: Extreme Outfitters, Dept SOE, 4807-A Shore Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23455; phone: 757-363-0909

Employed by Air America, Other Former CIA Fronts?

Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) has introduced a Bill that would make past employment in Air America, and other former CIA front companies, count for Civil Service retirement purposes. This is a good idea. For more information, go to: http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2005_cr/hr1276.html

Winchester Low-Recoil, 1 oz. 12 Gauge Slug Ammo

If you or your department use Mossburg 590 patrol shotguns, or other repeating shotguns with a skeletonized shell lifter, take note: The new Winchester loads cited above have been shortened by approximately 1/4" to enable a four-round magazine to hold 5 rounds. Because of this, they will fail to feed in shotguns such as the Mossburg 590 that use a skeletonized shell lifter — they tend to "fall through" the shell lifter rather than feed into the chamber. As this can be a serious officer-safety issue, it is wise to check any recent manufacture

Winchester 12 gauge slugs against the feed mechanism in your repeating shotgun.

RoboTruck, B'Gosh

Oshkosh Truck Corporation announced that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has chosen their TerraMax™ robotic vehicle for evaluation for the DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 – a 175-mile, off-road race in the Mojave Desert for completely autonomous vehicles. Of 195 teams originally submitting race entries, DARPA chose

118 for further review based on vehicle designs and capabilities. DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 is a field test of autonomous (driverless) ground vehicles to promote the advance of autonomous vehicle technology. Teams vying to compete in the Grand Challenge develop their vehicles without government funding. By 2015, the Pentagon hopes that using autonomous military vehicles such as TerraMax will help save the GIs being lost to attacks on convoys. More information is available at: www.terramax.com.



Can You Hear Me Now?

Hearing protection for shooters is important. Walker's Game Ear, Inc. has partnered the NRA as an official hearing protection products licensee of the NRA. Walker's will offer three NRA-licensed products, the Original Game Ear, the Power Muffs and Walker's Disposable Earplugs, to be available this spring on-line and in sporting goods stores throughout the U.S.

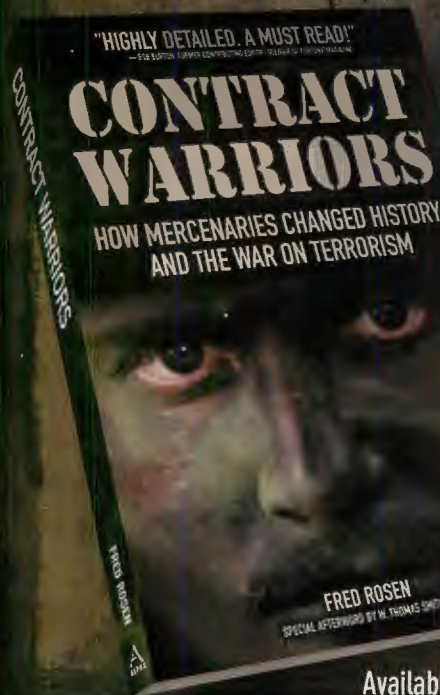
Walker's Game Ear is a sound amplification / hearing protection device developed for bow and gun hunters. The device, which weighs only .16 of an ounce and fits comfortably behind either ear, amplifies sounds, such as turkeys gobbling at a distance or the subtle sounds of an approaching deer. At the same time, it is designed to automatically and instantaneously compress the amplification of loud sounds, such as muzzle blasts, to safe levels with a Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) of 29 dB.

The NRA- licensed Walker's Power Muffs offer unprecedented protection and comfort in a muff-style design, with a Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) of 24dB, and are made of a space-age polymer plastic for its strength, durability and its feather-light design. Power Muffs allow shooters who prefer muffs to tune in specific sound frequencies and custom set their Power Muffs to match their individual hearing needs, while helping to protect them from the harmful affects of muzzle blasts.

Walker's Disposable Foam earplugs are an inexpensive

Continued on page 78

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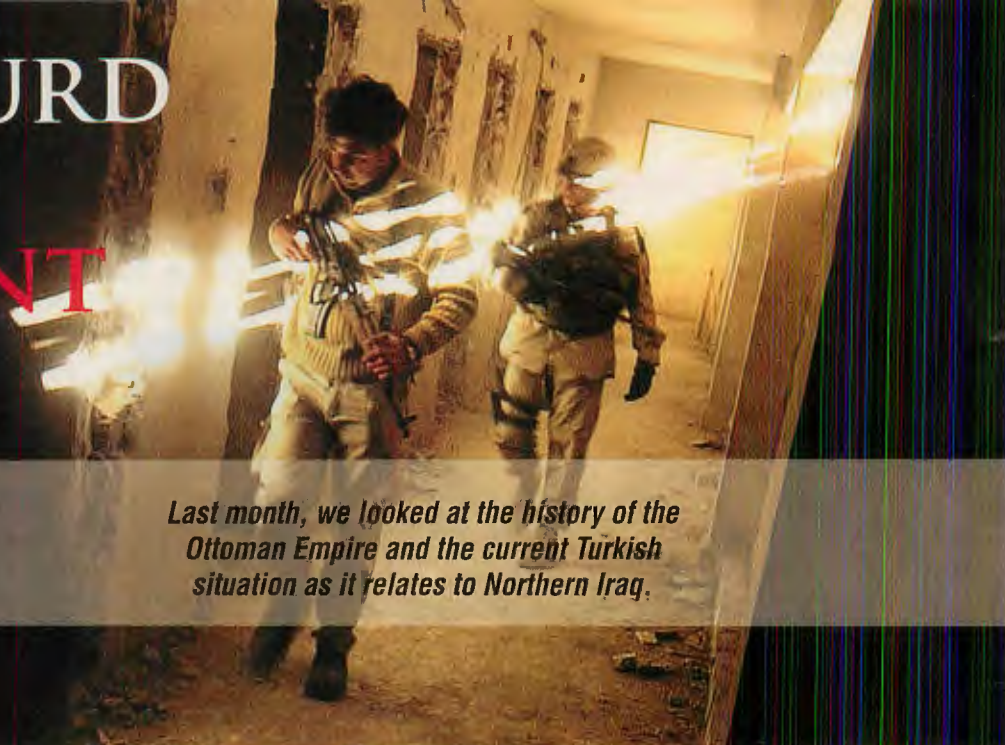
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TURK-KURD BLOWUP IMMINENT



Last month, we looked at the history of the Ottoman Empire and the current Turkish situation as it relates to Northern Iraq.

Promised Independence

The embattled Turkish Kurds had been waiting for a long time, and were crushed when their nationalism became violent in the 1930s and 40s. The Kurds were promised independence in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres, but that promise was rescinded in 1923 Treaty of Lausanne. The corners-of-four-nations area they inhabit is about 230,000 square miles, equal to Germany and Britain combined.

"We are frustrated because we can do nothing in Iraq since we failed to join Allied Forces there," one Turkish source said. The Turkish Parliament was torn when the Bush Administration asked Turkey to ally with the United States and the United Kingdom in invading Iraq. Turkish officials did not approve of the United States acting unilaterally.

But national interest was at stake. The Turks who wanted to go into Iraq believed that Turkey would have more control over the volatile Kurd question. Other Turkish officials said they wanted to protect the three to four million Turks in Northern Iraq—the forgotten Turkmen.

"Those who voted against going into Iraq wanted to respect the United Nations," one Turkish source said.

Top: Soldiers and Iraqi police work together to search a building belonging to the 'Party for a Democratic Kurdistan' in Kirkuk, Iraq. The Soldiers and their allies were looking for illegal weapons and ordnance.

Top: www.army.mil • Department of Defense Above: Esprit d'Corps

Most likely, that position was motivated by their push to join the prosperous European Union. Most European Union countries did not want the United States to invade, and Turkey needed to court EU members, as the vote to accept Turkey as a member was imminent.

Twelve Million Kurds

"There are over twelve million Kurds in Turkey, which is twenty percent of the total population," our Turkish source told us.

"The Kurdish minority in Turkey is pushing for it's language to be made official, as in Switzerland where four languages are spoken. They want a Kurdish-Turk federation and more autonomy within Turkey. Not likely, states tend to accrue power, not disseminate it.

"Most Kurds are Moslems and many intermarry with the Turks, but they don't call it intermarriage if both are Moslem.

"Only a few thousand are fighting with the violent Marxist Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) for a separate state. I don't think most Turkish Kurds will want to fight if there is a civil war in Iraq. The south of Turkey where many Kurds live is not fertile and it is very developed so many of the wealthy Kurds come to Istanbul for business," he said.

Turkey wants desperately to become a member of the prosperous European Union. But Western Europe has a long memory. Europe sees the brutal treatment of the Armenians, and recent treatment of Kurd separatists as reasons for not accepting Turkey. A European Union delegation decided this year that Turkey has a long way to go in it's journey to democ-



racy and subsequent acceptance into the EU.

Some speculate that the European Union is hesitant to let Turkey join because it is an Islamic state.

"The European Union expects Turkey to allow the Kurds autonomy. But, Turkey wants the Kurds to be integrated into the society. Kurds are allowed to become educated; many are extremely rich, and some are in high positions. Two-thirds of the Kurds in Turkey are Sunni and the other third Shia.



*Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division talk through a translator with a representative of about 100 former Republican Guard soldiers, members of the Free Military Officers of Iraq. The group gathered outside the Mosul government building demanding two months back-pay. Above: www.army.mil • SPC Robert Woodward
Below: Esprit d' Corps*

Communist Terrorist

"It is when the separatists try to establish their identity with violence, that Turkish authorities were forced to fight back," Isaac told us. "The EU is angry about the trial and prison conditions of Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the PKK.

Ocalan was a communist terrorist who was responsible for over seven hundred executions, and vicious firefights that have killed thousands of Turks.

"Your country would do the same to violent separatists. The death penalty is acceptable in your country, but Europe has abolished it. So Ocalan sits in prison, but he is still a force with Kurdish separatists," Isaac said. "In a sense, he holds Turkey hostage. His conditions and movement kept Turkey from Europe."

Turkish intel agents captured Ocalan in Kenya in 1999.

Many of the merchants and businessmen we met were indeed Kurdish. "Istanbul is a good home for business," one outspoken Kurd told us. "But we want our own language, news, and political parties. That is not allowed." Then he shut down, refusing to respond to questions on the future of a Kurdish state. "We have it good in Istanbul," he said.

The Cradle of Civilization Flows with Oil Mixed With Blood

The Turks and Kurds in Turkey warned us that behind the present artificial calm in Northern Iraq, a raging tempest is brewing. The storm that threatens civil war cuts loose in savage bursts.

Northern Iraq, oozing black gold, is a magnet for greed and lust, marked by repeated



massacres that have flooded the valleys of the mountainous terrain with the blood of Kurds, Turkmen, Christians and Arabs. Ethnic groups have been forcibly and viciously shuffled in and out of the region by whatever strongman was in power.

"A Kirkuk branch of the Iraqi Turkmen Front was attacked and ransacked on 29 Feb 2004 by scores of PUK members," the Turkmen (descendants of Turkic tribes) spokesman Salman Mofak said.

"Ethnic violence has emerged as a new source of trouble for

U.S. led coalition forces in northern Iraq, in and around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, between ethnic Kurds and Turkmen. A Kurdish Peshmerga, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), opened fire from their headquarters on a peaceful Turkmen demonstration in Tuzkhurmato, killing ten and injuring 21."

In March, a yellow taxi pulled up in front of a police station, and a passenger threw out a can. The officer that came out to inspect the can was blown up. The next day a truck full of police officers on the way to a funeral

were bombed. Kurdish police rounded up two Turkmen vegetable vendors and tortured them with cigarette butts, beat them with cables, and kicked them in the face. A *Knight Ridder* reporter warns of escalating ethnic clashes, and possible civil war.

"The Kurdish ambition to eradicate the other ethnic group in the north of Iraq with the help of the U.S. administration would lead to civil war and destruction of Iraq. Kurdish authority in Kirkuk and the illegal Kurdish armed militia are terrorizing the ethnic groups in Kirkuk and surrounding area," Mofak said.

"The KDP and PUK have brought thousands of Kurdish families from the predominantly Kurdish north to Kirkuk.

"There have been bloody clashes between Kurds and Arabs and tough talking between Kurds and Turkmen.

A Battle Over Kirkuk

"Turkmen and Kurds are squaring off in a battle over Kirkuk. Turkmen claim they make up some 70 percent of Kirkuk, whereas the Kurds slice that figure down to 23 percent," Mofak said.

"Iraqi Kurds were always armed, ready to revolt and fight, and the Turkmen are unarmed, without outside support, disorganized and consequently docile," Mofak said.

The CIA and U.S. Special Forces armed and supported thousands of Kurdish peshmerga troops to defeat the Iraqi forces in 2003.

Oozing Black Gold

Iraqi Kurds, estimated at 3.5-4 million, or more than 20% of the Iraqi population, and Iraqi Turkmen, estimated at three million, or 15% of the population, live mainly in the North.

Forty percent of Iraq's oil reserves and six % of the world's oil flow from fields in the region that includes the towns of Kirkuk and Mosul.

The Kurds call the area 'Kurdistan', the Turkmen call it 'Turkmenili', while the Arabs, Turkey and the U.S. call it Northern Iraq.

"Everyone claims Kirkuk and Mosul. The minute you give the carrot to one, you've got four donkeys after it," says Robert Taylor, Canadian, publisher of the military magazine *Esprit d'Corps*, who had been in northern Iraq ten times since 2003.

The "No-fly Zone" and safe haven the U.S. created over northern Iraq after 1991, combined with the repeated arming of the Kurds, enabled Kurdish autonomy. Control of Kurdistan was split between two administrations after a 50-50 vote in 1992 elections. The two factions, the PUK headed by Jalal Talibani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) headed by Massoud Barzani shared control.

"The Kurds control Mosul and Kirkuk now, but until a few years ago the majority living there were Turks. The Kurds destroyed the land registration, although Turkey cannot prove that today," our Turkish guide, Isaac, said. "Kirkuk and Mosul were conquered by Suleyman the Great at the height of the Ottoman Empire in 1535."

Turkey and the United States have made it clear that they will not let go of what power they have over the oil rich areas.

"The oil is the key to independence," Taylor said. "Once you open up the bottle and the genie gets out, it's impossible to turn back the autonomy,"

Nearly two million Kurds responded, with close to 99% voting for independence, in a recent referendum.

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Bloody Insurgency

Turkey has threatened to invade if the Kurds rule the two cities. Turkey is especially fearful that the huge Kurdish minority of 15 million in Turkey will join any independence movements of the Iraqi Kurds and re-ignite the bloody insurgency in Turkey and split up southern Turkey.

The United States has had its eye on the prize since WWII.

A 1945 U.S. State Department documents described Iraqi oil fields as "a stupendous source of strategic power, and one of the greatest material prizes in world history." (*tacitconsent news*)

The U.S. is attempting to orchestrate an Iraqi government that it hopes will play its tune.

This time the two-faced game of manipulation and protection that the US has played with the Iraqi Kurds for the past half century may backfire.

The colorful, tribal Barzani, warrior-politician, current president of Kurdistan, wears Kurdish traditional clothing and speaks in Kurdish.

"Only death can stop me on this way. Other than this, no power or state in the world can make me give up Kirkuk. Moreover, these elections have shown Kirkuk's identity", he said. *Kurd-media*

Barzani is driven, obsessed with Kurdish sovereignty.

Bitter Rivals

The modern western-dressed Talabani, lawyer, and current President of Iraq, was Barzani's bitter rival until they put aside their differences to win big (25%) in the Iraqi elections. Talabani speaks of Iraqi unity and cooperation with the United States in English.

Except for control of Kirkuk, that is. The former peshmerga guerrilla has no plans to give up the 'Jerusalem of Kurdistan.' He wouldn't dare, for fear of losing the backing of his followers. He has one leg stretched to Baghdad to assure control in a central government if Kurdish sovereignty fails, while he keeps another foothold in Northern Iraq in case Kurdistan statehood succeeds.

"All areas which are part of Kurdistan historically and geographically, where the majority are Kurds, must be united in the regional government of Kurdistan. Kirkuk is one of those cities," Talibani told *the Nation*.

The history of Kirkuk and Mosul, the surrounding area, and its inhabitants is a tale of betrayal, manipulation, allies of convenience, and horrific violence and bloodshed.

Both the Kurds and the Turkmen shout out their bloody histories of oppression that parallel in haunting ways. The Kurd story is familiar, but the story of the Turkmen is only now being revealed.

"The Turkmen have a lot of inbreeding, and are distinguished by their language, a blend of Arabic and Turkish. They tend to wear the Ottoman style moustache," says Taylor, who wrote a book, *Among the Others* that chronicles the saga of the Turkmen.

Turkish spokesmen Salman Mofak and Orhan Ketene provided SOF with the following history.

"The Turkmen, the third largest ethnic group after the Arabs and Kurds, are concentrated in Turkmenili, which includes the provinces of Mosul, Erbil, Kirkuk, Salahaddin, Diyala and the city center of Baghdad. The majority of the Turkmen people live in Kirkuk, the capital of Turkmenili," said Mofak.

"Iraq's Turkmen are generally Sunni Muslims, although up to 40 percent are Shiites. There are 30,000 Christian Turks called the Kala Gaweri. Inter-marriage between the Shi'a and Sunni Turkmen is very common," Mofak said.

Executed Royals

"Clashes between the Kurds and Turkmen have gone on for decades, since 1958 when a military coup toppled the Hashemite monarchy in a swift, pre-dawn coup executed by officers of the 19th Brigade, known as "free officers." The royal family and other rulers were executed in al-Rehab Palace. The rabid mobs hung their bodies by their feet outside the palace.

"Nuri as-Said, (installed as ruler by the British) escaped, disguised as a veiled woman, but was caught the next day and executed by armed mobs, his body tied to the back of a car and dragged through the streets until there was nothing left but half a leg.

"Kurdish leader Mullah Mustafa Barzani Mulla, Mesud Barzani's father, had returned from exile in the Soviet Union and started negotiation for a Kurdish autonomous region.

"The Communists took control of the city and carried out a horrific massacre. Many prominent Turkmen families in Mosul

were wiped out, and those involved in the rebellion against the Communists were tried and executed.

"More than 600 Turkmen, women and children marched on Al-Jumhariya Street in Turkmen dominated Kirkuk in 1959 to celebrate the first anniversary of the 1958 revolution. They were ambushed by Communist Kurdish militia as they passed the local Officer's Resting House chanting Turkmen songs.

"My father, who participated in the march, said that the Kurdish Communists tied the hands and feet of the Turkmen behind cars and pulled them through the streets of Kirkuk.

"Kirkuk was put under curfew and its population slaughtered by Communists and Kurds. The streets of Kirkuk were filled with blood. Three Mukhtar brothers were killed in front of their family. Their 12-year-old sister, Emel, was killed while trying to defend her brothers. Ata Khayrullah and his brother Ihsan were hung in front of the Al-Shuhadia Bridge.

The Kurds were shouting in the Kurdish language "one kilo of Turkmen meat for fifty Cents."

"Barzani's Peshmerga and Iraqi soldiers plundered Turk's houses and workplaces for three days, killing hundreds of Turks.

Following the Massacre

"Following the massacre, armed units were dispatched to the city by the central government in order to stop and quell the violence between the Turkmen and Kurds.

"The Communist Kurds demanded the inclusion of Kirkuk,



Staff Sgt. Chris Golde, a squad leader with Company A, Task Force 1-21, 25th Infantry Division, patrols Kirkuk, Iraq.
Photo: www.army.mil • SPC Sean Kimmons

a Turkmen city in their autonomous region in negotiations between the Iraqi government and Mullah Barzani.

"Tens of thousands of Turkmen political opponents and ordinary citizens have been subjected to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, summary execution, and tortured by beating and burning, electric shock, starvation, mutilation, and rape. The wives of the Turkmen prisoners were tortured in front of their husbands, children in the presence of their parents.

"The Ba'ath party rule, commencing in 1968, opened one of the darkest chapters in Turkmen history. The Ba'ath party forced people to sign petitions asking for closure of Turkish language schools and appointed Arab administrators in Turkmen areas. Boycotts by Turkmen were suppressed in a bloody manner. Turkmen teachers were replaced with Arab teachers, and Turkmen teachers were forced to non-Turkmen areas. Arabs were encouraged to settle in Turkmen areas with monetary rewards and young Arab men were offered money to marry Turkmen girls.

"Erbil city used to be a majority Turkmen city until late Forties. But after the crushing of the second Barzani rebellion in 1949 by the Iraqi army, the rebel Kurdish population was brought and forcefully settled in big cities such as Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul.

Turkmen Besieged

"Within three decades the Kurdish influx to big cities increased as well as the heterogamy (four wives), the high birth rate (six to ten children) increased the Kurdish population to a majority in Erbil. The Turkmen in Erbil are between 25-30% of the city population. Turkmen, who are besieged and under tight Kurdish control, cannot forge an armed struggle because of their geographical and logistical problems, as well as weak Turkish support.

"Most of them resort to passive resistance against Kurdish pressure and try to disguise themselves by speaking Kurdish in public and naming their children with Kurdish names.

"Elimination of Turkmen identity and entity by the Iraqi regime would discourage Turkey from demanding Kirkuk and Mosul provinces in case of the disintegration of Iraq.

"Turkey makes it clear that it wants to see the Turkmen gain political influence, to counterbalance the region's Kurds and contain growing restiveness in its own Kurdish provinces."

Nixon, Kissinger and the Shah of

Iran encouraged an insurgency by the Iraqi Kurds in 1972 in order to weaken Baghdad. For three years, the CIA plotted to clandestinely supply arms to the Kurdish rebels, to the tune of \$16 million. Iran provided the Iraqi Kurds with 90 percent of their weapons, but never gave them more than three days worth of ammunition to preclude any chance of total victory. Larry Everest tells the "sordid" story of the U.S. betrayal of the Kurds in his book *Oil, Power & Empire*

Betrayal of the Kurds

Barzani, on the hit list of the Ba'athists, sought U.S. help, promising a gift of the oil if he could control the Kirkuk oil field. The Kurds were "a card to play" against Iraq, and, according to

CIA memos, "a uniquely useful tool for weakening Iraq's potential for international adventurism." Kissinger and the Shah hoped they would create enough insurgency to sap the resources of Iraq, but never wanted the Kurds to win. The betrayal of the Kurds is detailed by the Pike Commission report ordered by Congressman Otis Pike to investigate U.S. involvement with the Kurds.

By 1975, 45,000 Iraqi Kurd guerrillas, with the help of Iranian troops, pinned down 80 percent of Iraq's 100,000 troops.

Eight hours after Iraq agreed to U.S.-Iranian terms concerning the border and Shatt-al-Arab waterway in the Algiers Agreement in 1975, the Shah and

Continued on page 30

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RE: BAY OF PIGS **Sitting on "Plan B" leading up to Bay Of Pigs?**

By Don Bohning

Is it possible the presidents of Guatemala and Nicaragua, with the complicity of the chief American trainer at the Guatemala training site, planned to proceed with the Bay of Pigs invasion had President Kennedy aborted it at the last minute?

That seems to be the best, and perhaps only, explanation for the puzzling and still unexplained private conversations Army Lt. Col. Frank Egan — who headed the American team of trainers for the exile force in Guatemala — had with three of the invasion brigade's top leaders in the days leading up to their departure for Cuba.

The first — and apparently the only — previous account of the incident appeared in a 1964 book by Haynes Johnson, which included interviews with four Brigade 2506 leaders.

According to Johnson, Egan — identified only as "Frank" in his book — spoke privately with brigade commander Jose "Pepe" Perez San-Roman and deputy commander Erneido Oliva, telling them that forces in the Kennedy administration were trying to block the invasion and he — "Frank" — might be ordered to stop it.

If that were to happen, said Frank, the brigade should take the trainers as "prisoners;" and the exile force would then be given the plans to proceed on their own. In separate conversations, he told the same thing to Manuel Artime, the civilian representative to the brigade.

According to Johnson's account, "Frank never said who opposed the invasion — it was 'forces in the administration' or 'politicians,' or 'chiefs above.' He did say that if he received the order to stop the invasion 'I have also orders from my bosses, my commanders, to continue anyway.'"

Erneido Oliva gives a more detailed account of the incident in his unpublished memoirs; an account which he provided the author. Additionally, a 1975 interview by CIA historian Jack Pfeiffer with Jake Esterline, the project director for what became the Bay of Pigs, provides a tantalizing hint of who might have taken over the invasion effort had Kennedy aborted it.

There is little reason to question Oliva's credibility. After

his release — along with other Bay of Pigs prisoners — from Cuban jails in December 1962, not only did he become close to Bobby Kennedy, but rose to the rank of major general in the U.S. Army Reserves and deputy commander of the Washington, D.C. National Guard.

As Oliva tells it, Egan and his staff began holding secret briefings with him and Perez San-Roman some weeks before the event, providing them details of the invasion and a scenario for what was to follow.

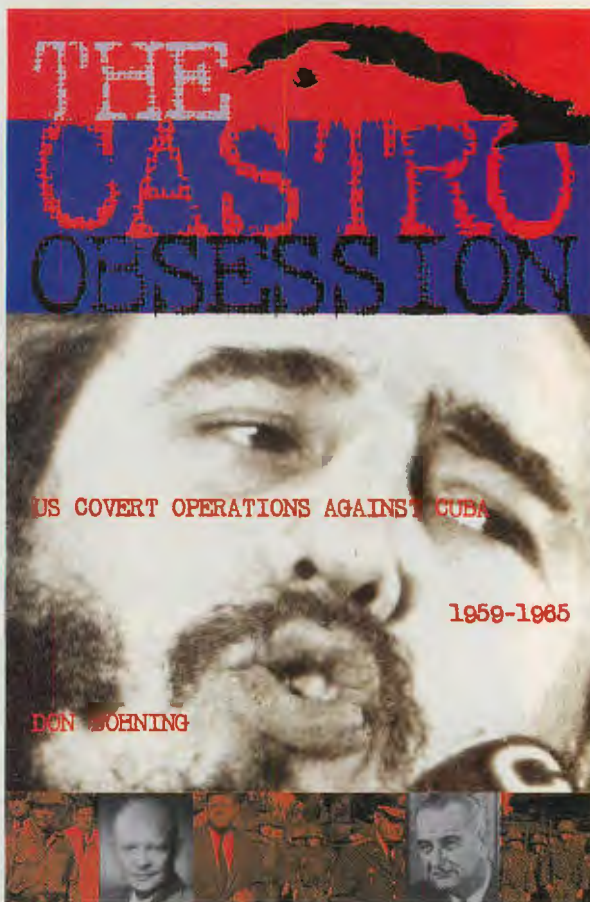
Suddenly, however, in late March or early April, Egan summoned Oliva and Perez San-Roman to his headquarters, telling them "there are forces in the administration trying to block the invasion, and if I receive such an order, I will secretly inform you. If this happens, you will come here and make some kind of show, as if you are putting us [all American advisors] in prison, and you go ahead with the plans as we have discussed. We will give you the whole plan, even if we are your prisoners."

Oliva said Egan "was very specific" in his instructions: They were to put armed brigade soldiers in front of the U.S. advisors' quarters, cut outside communications and continue training until they were told when and how to leave for Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, the brigade's departure point for Cuba. Oliva said he and Perez San-Roman later learned that Egan had given the same information to Artime.

After further meetings with Egan, Oliva said that he, Artime, and Perez-San Roman agreed, "We did not have the contacts

nor the political, financial or military muscle to accomplish such an enterprise" and, as a result, came to several conclusions. Among them, said Oliva, was "the forces that would land in Cuba would be much, much larger than the brigade" and "the invasion was going to take place even if the 'politicians' in Washington tried to stop it."

Both Esterline and Jack Hawkins, the Marine colonel who served as the paramilitary commander for the invasion, said they had been unaware of Egan's activities and, given the logistical problems involved, did not see how it could be carried out as he described.



The only likely scenario for the entire scheme, as outlined to brigade officials by Egan, is provided in Pfeiffer's November 1975 interview with Esterline, among documents declassified in the 1990s.

Pfeiffer asks Esterline if he knew "anything about Dick Drain's [chief of operations for the Cuba project] diary...for example, he says that on the 3rd of April 1961, that you felt that Ydigoras [Guatemalan president] and possibly with Somoza [Nicaraguan president] might run this operation anyway...Did you really think that if the United States said 'no,' that if Kennedy said 'no,' the Brigade can't go, etc., that there was a possibility that Ydigoras and Somoza would pick up? Or was this just emotional?"

Esterline responds: "No, no, no. I felt, I guess I was reflecting Alejos [brothers Carlos and Roberto Alejos on whose Guatemalan coffee plantation the Brigade training was taking place], who was my right hand man...no, it was more likely Alejos. It was something that Alejos more than Ydigoras would have said to me, that they weren't just going to let this thing fizzle like this...because they had taken all the risk. As far as they were concerned...they had all those people in there, training them and what not, and goddam it, if we weren't going to do it, they would do it. Well, the answer is, how are you going to get them there?"

Oliva remains convinced that Egan was not acting on his own when he discussed the takeover plan with the two brigade officers and Artime. Hawkins doubted that anyone higher up in Washington might have been involved in such a plan and that Egan "had to be acting on his own initiative."

Egan died Dec. 11, 1999, in Ventura, California, at age 76. His obituary, appearing in the local newspaper, made no mention of his role with the Brigade and the Bay of Pigs. It

did note that he was a veteran of "World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War." Hawkins and Oliva, both of whom knew Egan well, said there was no question that the one described in the obituary was the one they had known from the Bay of Pigs. Efforts by the author to contact his family were unsuccessful.

Although Pfeiffer, the CIA historian, had indicated in other interviews that he intended to interview Egan for his history of the Bay of Pigs, he apparently never did. Pfeiffer and Esterline are both dead.

Egan's only known recorded comments regarding the Bay of Pigs came on 1 May 1961, in testimony before the Taylor Commission – named by the White House to investigate the invasion.

At one point, he was asked: "What would have happened if the operation had been called off after the first part of April?"

Egan's response: "It would have depended upon the posture they were in at the time. If it had been called off after they were actually on the way they would have taken over and kept going. I was informed that if the operation was called off they would take over. They said that as a friend we want you to direct all your people not to resist if this comes about, because we don't want anybody to get hurt. Consequently, I had all our people turn in their side arms. I would say that after the 1st of April it was a go operation." ✕

Don Bohning is a former longtime Latin America editor of The Miami Herald and author of a new book entitled THE CASTRO OBSESSION: U.S Covert Activities Against Cuba, 1959-1965, published by Potomac Books, Inc., [formerly Brassey's] of Dulles, Va. This above article is adapted from the book.

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Roadside Rendezvous With Death

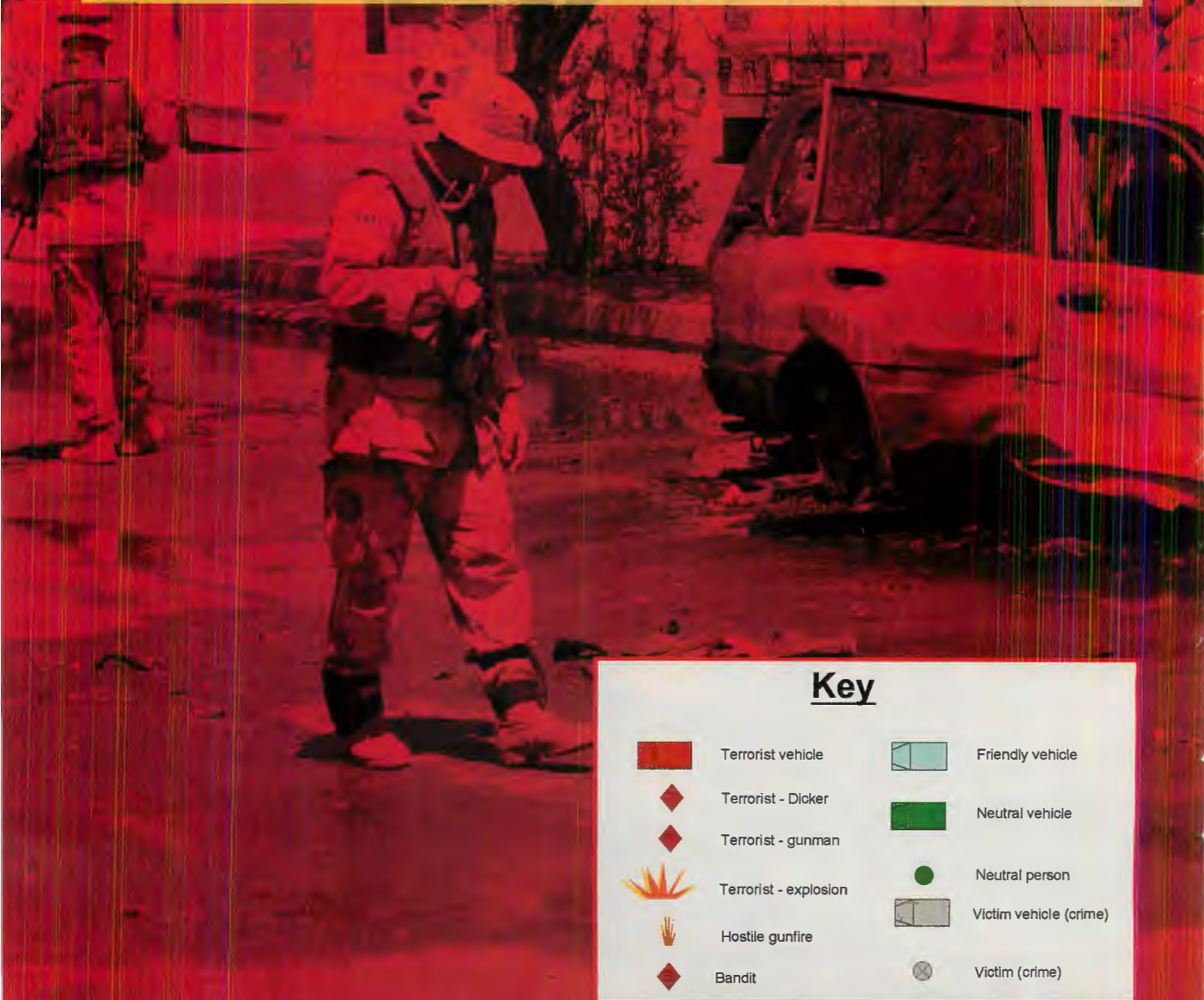
Analyzing Terrorist Ambush Techniques In Iraq

Roadside ambushes and assassinations by (pick one) Anti Iraqi Forces (AIF), Jihadists, radical Islamic terrorists, Baathists, etc., are major distractions and impediments to the democratization of Iraq, and the second largest cause of casualties among the Coalition and Iraqi security forces. The security contractor Blackwater® produced the ambush analysis adapted here, delineating some of the common AIF ambush and assassination techniques used throughout Iraq against the Good Guys.

Coalition forces are taking the initiative to reduce the terrorists in number, while reducing their ability to build their improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by searching out the once-common stashes of ordnance and explosives.

Since the very effective national elections, Iraqis are coming forward to tell Coalition forces where the bad guys are hiding and where they are stashing their IED-making material.

Coalition forces are learning, adapting and taking the fight to these terrorists -- as the Kentucky Guardsmen so deftly demonstrated in late March, when they totally destroyed a numerically superior AIF ambush force near Abu Grahb in Iraq. That is one ambush the multi-national terrorists and their supporters will not be bragging about on Al Jezeera and the Jihadist's net. - Col. Frank van der Waal, USA



Key



Terrorist vehicle



Friendly vehicle



Terrorist - Dicker



Neutral vehicle



Terrorist - gunman



Neutral person



Terrorist - explosion



Victim vehicle (crime)

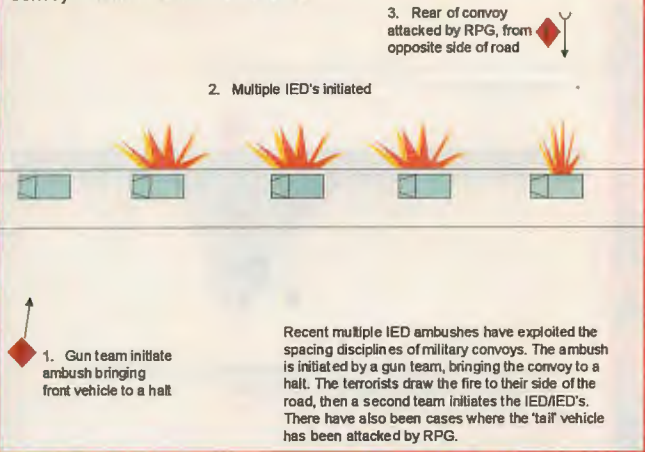


Hostile gunfire

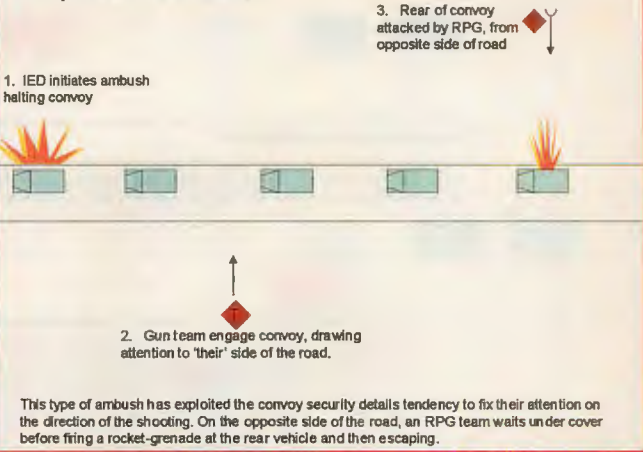


Victim (crime)

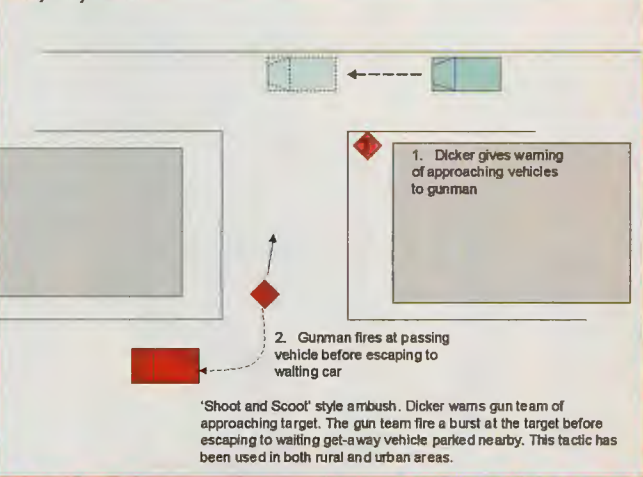
Convoy Ambush – Gun Fire Initiation



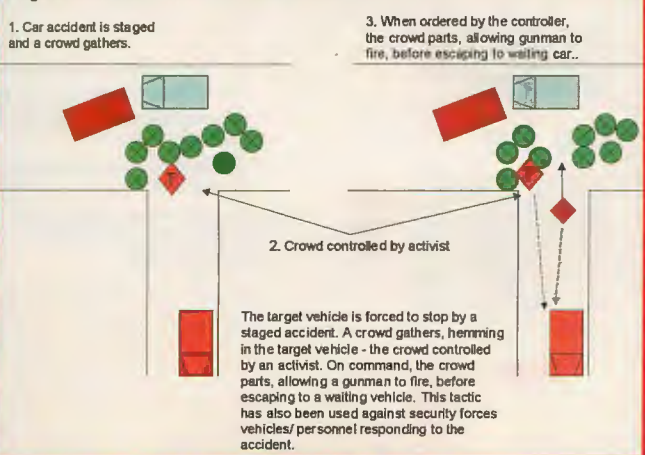
Convoy Ambush – IED Initiation



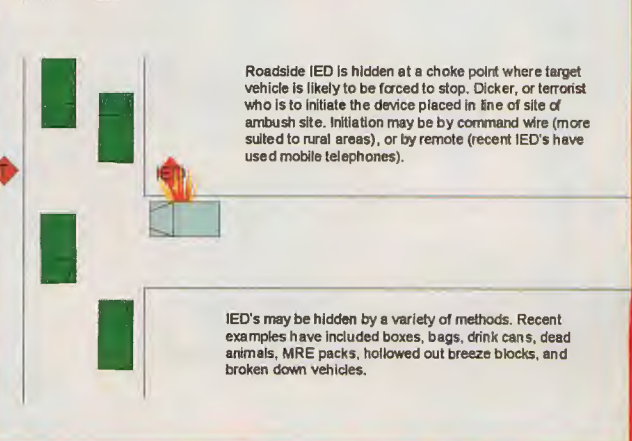
Alley Way Ambush



Staged Accident Ambush



Roadside IED



Drive-by Shooting



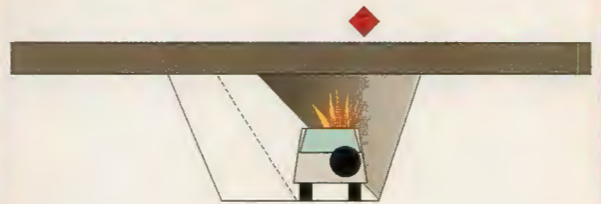
The terrorist follow the target vehicle, then at an opportune moment overtake, firing at the target vehicle as they pass.

A variation of this approach has been to attack the target vehicle as it passes a slip road. This allows the terrorist to approach on the front passenger side, timing the ambush to coincide with their (terrorist) entry onto the exit lane.

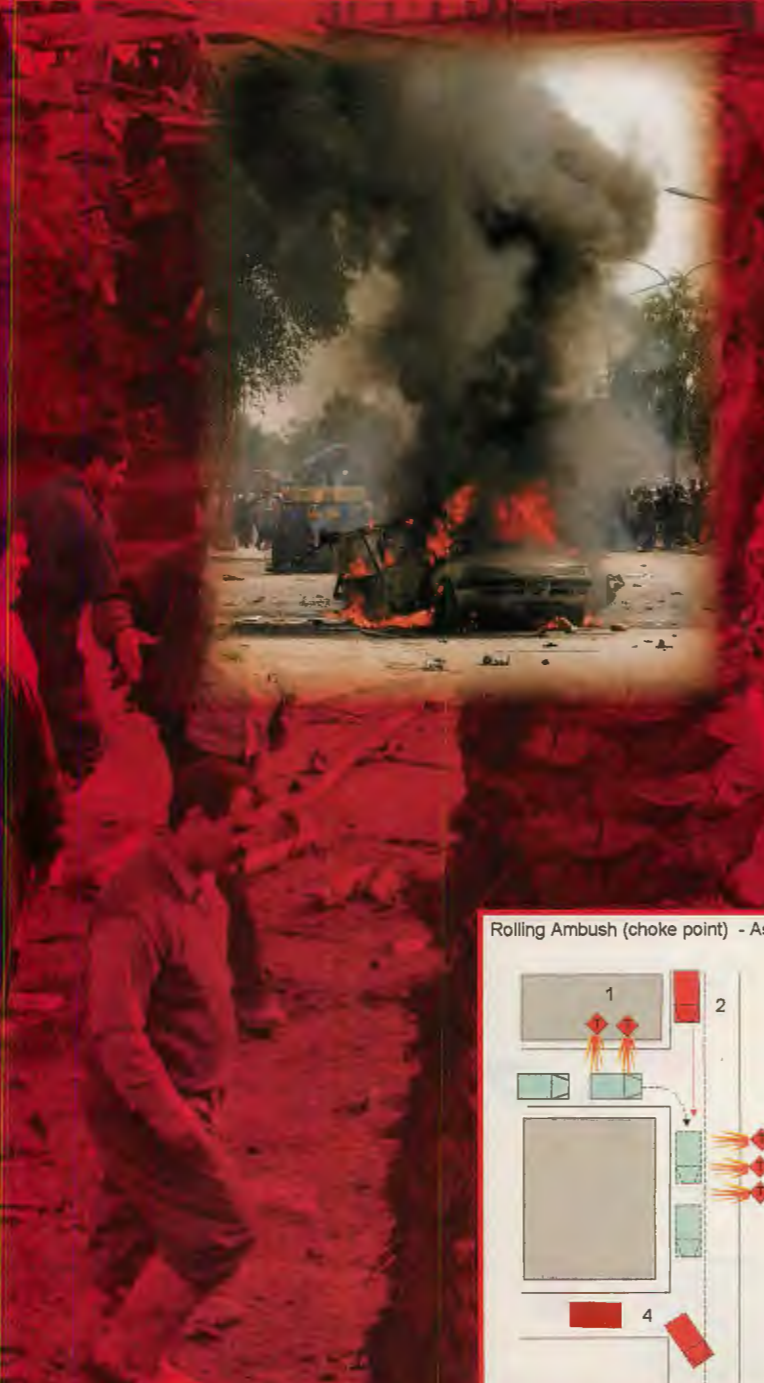


Overhead IED

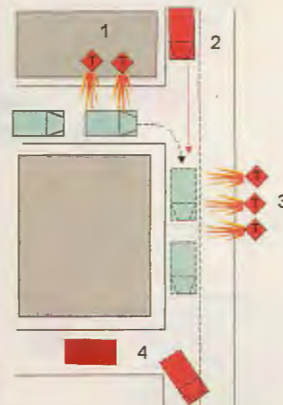
As target vehicle enters underpass, terrorist waiting on the overhead parapet drop an IED onto roof of vehicle.



As an alternative, a dicker on the entry parapet signals that a target vehicle is approaching to a terrorist waiting at the exit parapet.

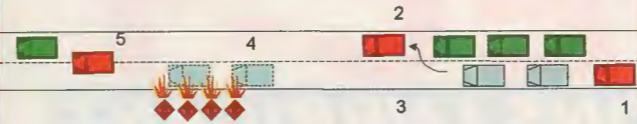


Rolling Ambush (choke point) - Assassination



- Gunmen on overlooking vantage point initiate ambush.
- Blocking vehicle moves behind convoy
- Roadside gunmen rake vehicles as they pass.
- Blocking vehicle moves in front of convoy to prevent escape from killing area.

Linear Ambush - Assassination



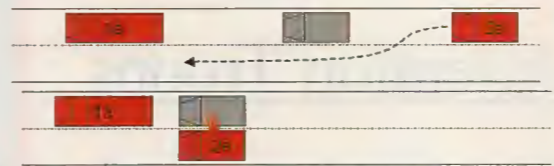
1. Dicking vehicle follows convoy in order to identify it and call forward to rest of assassination team.
- Blocking vehicle moves into inside lane and brakes – slowing down traffic, allowing convoy to overtake (3) move into clear space (4).
- Convoy moves into clear space.
- Convoy moves into killing area, gunmen on side of road rake convoy – concentrating on 'principles' in second vehicle.
- Blocking vehicle moves into middle lane preventing escape.

Place of Residence – Assassination (Dr Akila Hashimi)

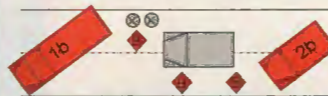


- Dickers posing as road sweepers warn gun-group in pick up truck that entourage is leaving residence.
- Ambush initiated by RPG (misses target)
- Pick-up overtakes convoy, rakes second vehicle with Dr Hashimi, fatally wounding her.
- Overtakes second vehicle and rakes with gunfire before speeding away

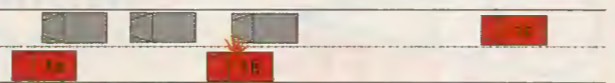
Highway Robbery – Single Vehicle Victim



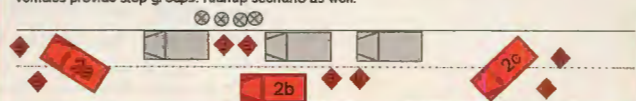
- ▲ The target vehicle is forced to slow down by the vehicle in front (1a), usually a heavy vehicle. This allows the bandits in the vehicle behind (2a) to overtake, shooting out the target vehicle's tyres to force it to stop. The occupants of the target vehicle are then robbed at gunpoint and abandoned.
- ▼ The target vehicle is forced to stop by a large vehicle blocking the road (1b). The bandits in the vehicle behind (2b) then block any escape, and then the occupants of the target vehicle are robbed at gunpoint and abandoned. High possibility of kidnap.



Highway Robbery – Multi Vehicle



- ▲ Three or more bandit vehicles select convoy for attack. Lead vehicle (1a) overtakes convoy, whilst second (1b) comes alongside signalling convoy to stop by brandishing weapons (firing at wheels of any vehicle that fails to pull over, sometimes into cab). Third bandit vehicle (1c) provides back-stop.
- ▼ With convoy halted, the bandits from the middle vehicle (2b) conduct robbery, forcing occupants to leave their vehicles at gunpoint. Valuables will be taken from victims. Bandits from the second vehicle may also drive off with selected vehicles. The lead (2a) and rear (2c) bandit vehicles provide stop-groups. Kidnap scenario as well.



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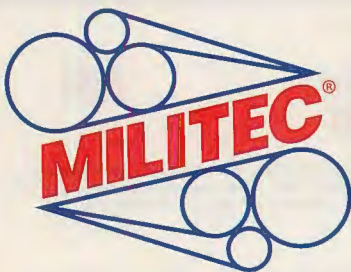
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2. Unfortunately, there IS a SECRET to making leverage work... having it on call, when needed.

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George Schultz, Ph.D.
Oldsmar, Florida

Roadblocks and Ambushes

DEFEATING A TERRORIST FAVORITE

By Howard B. Linett, Esq.

The following is excerpted from *Living With Terrorism: Survival Lessons from the Streets of Jerusalem*, published by Paladin Press, Dept. SOF, Gunbarrel Tech Center, 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO 80301 (www.paladin-press.com).

Roadblocks are employed to stop your movement through a kill zone. They are designed to block the entire road, leaving you no way to go around. They are positioned to surprise and startle you, so that your instinctive reaction, hitting the brakes, is automatically triggered. Once you are stopped, you are a sitting duck. Expect the terrorists to slam the door shut behind you, blocking you from behind and boxing you in, so that pedal-to-the-metal in reverse would get you nowhere. In such a predicament, even if you are trained in how to react and to react instantly, the odds are stacked against you.

To ensure surprise, a roadblock is most effectively positioned on the downside of a blind curve. The later it is seen, the more instinctively and faster you will hit the brakes. In this situation your vision will be fixed on the roadblock itself. You will suffer a classic case of tunnel vision. You won't even notice the terrorists manning the roadblock, or their weapons, until it is too late. Traveling down hill, your vehicle will require a greater distance and a longer time to stop. Also, if it is facing down hill, it is slower to "get it going" in reverse.

Roadblocks are used by terrorists who want to kill or kidnap you and live to do it again and again and again. This is a classic hit-and-run terror tactic. It is the rare instance that the terrorists leave someone behind who is programmed to shoot the first responders.

I categorize roadblocks according to the materials out of which they are constructed, and their degree of permanency.

Using Vehicles as Roadblocks

Any location from which terrorists believe they can escape by vehicle, has the potential to be used as the site for a vehicle roadblock. Little preparation is necessary other than selecting the roadblock's location and alternate escape routes. All that is required to execute the plan of attack is a single, quick turn that places the terrorists' blocking vehicle 90 degrees to the flow of traffic...then stop! That is it. The terrorists need only position a lookout with a cellular phone up the road far enough away to activate the roadblock. The lookout will simply be a nondescript individual and as such, an "invisible" part of a normal and well-traveled route.

The Stationary Vehicle Block

More often than not, the terrorists will use the same vehicle for blocking and for escape. The terrorists park their white 14-passenger Ford Transit by the side of the road. They wait until their lookout's cellular phone orders "Ready Go" and then they execute the 90-degree turn, moving the Transit into blocking position. The driver remains at the wheel, engine running.

Now come the variations on a theme: The terrorists may open fire through the passenger windows and race away. Or several terrorists may jump out of the vehicle, open fire simultaneously from around both their vehicle's front and back, then jump back inside the vehicle and race away. Or the terrorists may jump out of the blocking vehicle, with several emerging from around its front and several from around its back. They swarm the target vehicle, drag out its passengers and butcher them. Alternatively, the terrorists do not butcher,

but instead employing maximum violence, they overpower the passengers, throwing them into the terrorists' vehicle and racing away. You had better believe that each of these maneuvers is well rehearsed by the terrorists.

An Experience with the Surprise Stationary Vehicle Roadblock:

I was driving from downtown Jerusalem to my home in the neighborhood of French Hill. It was early afternoon on a winter day. I cut through the neighborhood of Arab Sheikh Jarrah, rounding the left-downhill, blind curve opposite the vacant Shepherd Hotel. The road was a little wet from some rain, so I was driving slower than usual, fortunately.

Suddenly, a long, white multi-passenger van was in front of me. It was turned 90 degrees to the flow of traffic and blocking the entire road. Its hood was up. My eyes sent the picture to my brain, but there was a fraction of a second "recognition gap" between message sent and message received and understood. My eyes were fixed on the van. My peripheral vision noted that on my side of the road there was no actual shoulder – just a drop-off. On the other side of the road there was less than a 3-foot space between the front of the van and a chain-link fence and a steep hillside. I couldn't go around the van. My brain acknowledged message received and understood. Being "situationally aware," I knew there were no vehicles behind or even in sight behind me. Cognitively, I recognized the fact that I was alone and on my own. Instinctively, I downshifted and applied to the breaks.

My car skidded a few yards and came to a lurching stop about 20 yards from the van. It takes a One, Two, Three count until conscious thought replaces instinct. The extra-long van, hood open, standing perpendicular to the road and blocking the whole of it, is a confusing sight and subject to various interpretations, all of which raced through my mind before my widened eyes returned to normal size. Breakdown? Accident? "DID?" [Dumb Israeli Driver]. I could not tell. It was at this moment that six young Arab males emerged from behind the van; four from around front and two from around the back...and they were coming in my direction. My eyes widened again. My heart rate increased. I realized that from the location where I'd stopped, there are three separate routes available that will take no more than five minutes to have these guys (and me with them?) back, deep within terrorist-sanctuary territory. Not Good!

My car was facing down hill on a slightly wet and slippery road. My path was blocked at a narrow point in the road with a drop-off rather than a shoulder on my side. The possibility that an Israeli driver, by definition someone traveling too fast for road conditions, might now be speeding around the blind curve to my immediate rear, registered in my consciousness simultaneously with the certainty about the intentions of those emerging from behind the van. Actually, the vision in my minds-eye of an oncoming car crashing into my car as I tried to back-up the blind curve, registered stronger than any vision of the guys coming towards me. I decided it was safer not to attempt to back up, my only way to run, but instead to stand, and if it developed that way, fight.

I shifted my car into neutral, applied the parking brake and released my seatbelt. In two groups, the men started moving in my direction. I did not judge their actions as the natural type of moving around you would expect from a bunch of guys trying to solve a problem with a broken-down car. I realized I was facing an attack, perhaps a kidnap attempt. It was time to improve my position.

Physiologically, my heart rate – already elevated from my nearly crashing into the Arabs' van – increased another several beats per minute. Instantly my vision narrowed. I lost touch, visually and mentally with everything on my periphery, as if it did not exist. I heard nothing. I experienced the feeling that everything was unfolding in slow motion and that I was perhaps more of an observer than a participant.

I opened the car door and got out. I stood behind the door. Visually and mentally I lost all contact with the van. My eyes darted back and forth between the two groups of Arabs. I strained to see if any of them were armed. I saw no weapons, but that meant nothing. As they came closer, the two groups combined to form a single pack slightly left of center in the road. *Thank you for your assistance gentlemen.* My situation had improved. Now I no longer needed to defend myself from attackers coming from two directions.

The men were approaching my "point of no return," that critical point in the distance separating our vehicles, that if they were allowed to pass, I did not think I could stop all of them before they swarmed over me. A fraction slower than normal, but with exaggerated, almost theatrical movements, I drew my 1911A1 .45 pistol, chambered a round and assumed a two hand, arms straight-out Israeli handgun combat stance, slightly leaning out and over from the "V" between open door's frame and car windshield. Decision time.

The men stopped and started backing up. I heard the van's hood being closed. I looked toward the front of the van, my attention momentarily distracted from the retreating men. When I looked back, I saw that last of the men disappearing behind the back of the van. A few seconds later the engine started and the van roared away, down the hill. I realized that

I needed to start breathing. Concentrating on the task at hand, I made my pistol safe and holstered it. Then I got in my car and moved it 20 yards to a location where I could safely pull over to the side of the road and decompress at bit.

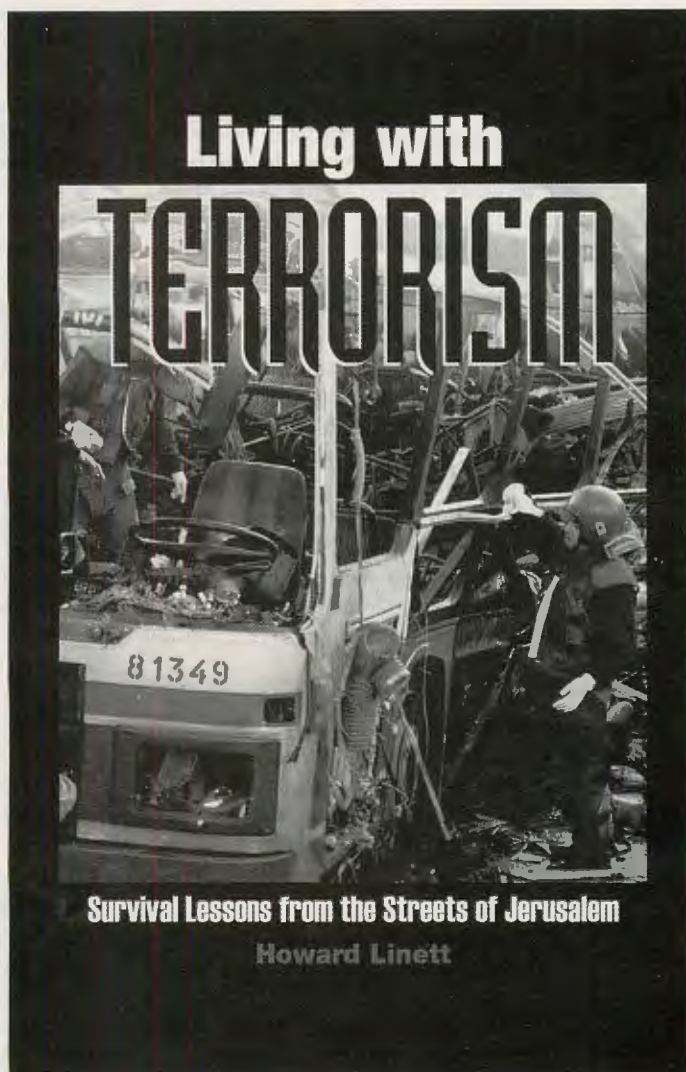
In Retrospect

The next vehicle I purchase will have an automatic transmission: The less my hands and feet have to do to operate the car the better. Instead of downshifting and braking, I should have been maneuvering the car so when stopped, its engine block (which will stop bullets) was between my potential attackers and me.

My tunnel vision was severe and I did not check to either my left or right. Worse, I never even thought to check my "6" [behind me] and had I done so it would have been at the cost of losing crucial eye contact with my antagonists. Either way it was a potential no-win situation. On the "plus" side, I had handled all the physiological changes I experienced and reacted to the danger instinctively, just like I had trained and practiced.

Most importantly I survived! ✕

Howard B. Linett, Esq. has lived in Jerusalem, Israel half his adult life. He is veteran of the IDF Combat Engineers and has been a member of the Israeli Police Civil Guard, Jerusalem Sniper Unit since 1995. He is an SOF contributor and a sometime columnist writing under the name of David Stone.



Do Not Flunk

In the School of Surviving Terrorism, where the only passing grade is your family's survival, experience is the best teacher. There is no more demanding a school anywhere in the world than Jerusalem. Demonstrating 20-20 foresight, I moved my family to Jerusalem's northernmost neighborhood six months before the start of arguably the most brutal, vicious, malevolent and continuous terrorist attacks ever inflicted upon a western-style democracy. Living in a peninsula surrounded by Arab neighborhoods and villages, closer to Yassar Arafat's compound in Ramallah than to downtown Jerusalem, more than two dozen terror attacks have taken place within a five-minute drive of the my home. Terrorism simply does not get any closer or more personal, except when you lose a loved one to it. – H.L.

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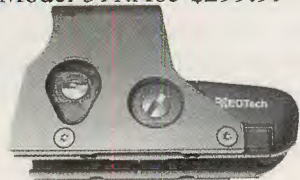
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U.S. cut off aid and closed Iran's border to cut off Kurdish lines of retreat.

Saddam retaliated in an all out "search-and-destroy" attack. The abandoned Kurdish forces were decimated and 250,000 Kurds were forcibly relocated.

Barzani wrote to Kissinger, pleading desperately for help. Kissinger did not reply.

Washington "refused to extend humanitarian assistance to the thousands of refugees created by the abrupt termination of military aid," Everest quotes the Pike Report.

"Covert action should not be confused with missionary work," Kissinger said.

The Pike Commission Report was suppressed by the White House under advice from the CIA.

"In 1975 the Iraqi army came and rounded up everyone in the widows' village, taking them to a compound in the southern desert. On the walls of the huts, which were unfit for human habitation, was scrawled 'Dar al-Fana'-House of Annihilation." *Tacitconsent.com*

In 1983, Barzani's sons continued to launch guerrilla attacks against the central government.

Iraqi security forces rounded up 8,000 Kurds, many innocent, and hauled them off.

"Before dawn, ... the soldiers charged through the camp. They captured the men walking on the street...they were breaking down doors...they looked inside chicken coops, water tanks, refrigerators, everywhere," Human Rights Watch quotes a Kurdish woman.

They all "went to hell" according to Saddam.

The 1988 Al-Anfal (The Spoils) campaign under Saddam's cousin "Chemical Ali" wiped out "battle-age" men between the ages of 15 and 70.

Al-Anfal was the "final solution" to the Kurdish insurgency. Death was the penalty for any male of age in the Anfal region to bear arms.

The town of Halabja was attacked with conventional bombs, artillery fire, and chemicals—including mustard gas, sarin and VX.

Mass Executions

Women, children, and elderly victims' bodies were shown huddled lifelessly in the streets or lying on their backs with mouths agape."

The men were "processed" and

trucked off to mass executions in concentration camps that held one and a half million Kurds. *genocide.org*

Ninety percent of Kurdish villages were wiped out, and 15 million landmines were left behind. More than 100,000 were dead or missing.

"After the 1991 Gulf War, the Shi'a and Kurds staged mass uprisings against Saddam," Mofak said.

"President George H. Bush's called to the Iraqi people to "take matters into their own hands to force Saddam Hussein, the dictator, to step aside." Kurdish guerrillas, briefly seized control of the city of Kirkuk. Vengeance killings targeted Ba'ath Party, local bureaucrats, and intelligence agents.

"The U.S. did not come to the support of the uprisings, and the Iraqi government was able to reorganize loyalists within the army to mount a counter-offensive. Saddam quickly crushed the uprisings, killing thousands of civilians, using indiscriminate force, rounding up tens of thousands more and executing them. Saddam sent his dreaded Minister of the Interior, Ali Hassan al-Majid, to Kirkuk with heavy reinforcements. Al-Majid ordered the arrests of thousands of Turkmen and Kurd males in Kirkuk.

"The city was under heavy bombardment from Iraqi tanks, helicopters, and artillery. Hundreds of civilians were killed. The worst killings took place after Iraqi troops recaptured Kirkuk in late March, 2001. Tens of thousands of Kurds and Turkmen fled for the mountains above the city.

"The Kurdish and Turkmen exodus from Kirkuk turned into permanent displacement in camps inside the Kurdish areas."

I asked Orhan Ketene why Kurdistan news reported that Turkmen were supporting the Kurds, and forwarded him the following comments:

"We share the same position as the Kurds on this issue," said Jawad al-Najjar, a Turkmen minister in the KDP.

Sold Out for Oil

"For 30 years nothing was done for this place; no government of the Turks ever helped us. They sold us out for an oil pipeline and three contracts. Nothing was ever said to Saddam. Why?" journalist Ilnur Cevic said in *Kurdish-Media.com*.

"The Turkmen will fight against the Turks, alongside the Kurds," insisted the minister at KDP headquarters in Ar-

bil. "Turkey says that it wants to protect us but that's not true. They want to take control of the oil and the land," said Azzedin Karsti. "Ordinary Turkmen say they fear Kurdish reprisals in the event of a Turkish military intervention."

"The Turkmen do not feel Turkish at all, and have no interest in seeing the arrival of Turkish soldiers," said Gerard Gauthier of Arbil who works for the French language institute.

"But at the same time they worry that the Kurds will blame them for the arrival of Turkish troops and that would place them in an impossible situation," Gauthier said.

Ketene's response to those statements made a complex situation appear to be an impossible tangled web.

"In the late nineties Kurds created puppet Turkmen parties from half Turkmen (one parent is a Kurd), which are called Kurdmen, as a reaction to the formation of Turkmen parties who refuse Kurdish domination," Ketene responded.

"Their members are very few and do not have any popularity among Turkmen. They are considered collaborators.

"There are five Kurdmen parties supporting Barzani and one supporting

Talabani. Jawad Najjar is one of those Kurdmen who are the mouthpiece of Barzani and Talabani. What he or they say does not bind the Turkmen and does not reflect the thoughts and the desires of the Turkmen."

"Its unbelievably complex", Taylor told SOF, "Kurds identify with Kurds more and Turkmen with Turkmen more, but Turkmen do line up with Kurdish authorities. It's tough to find dividing lines."

"The KDP has been the governing authority in Erbil City, which is composed of half Turkmen since Saddam sent his army to Erbil to oust their rival, the PUK, and to destroy the opposition headquarters, specifically the Turkmen. Hundreds of renowned individuals were executed. Since then, KDP has adopted similar methods for oppression and assimilation of the Turkmen. Clashes and frictions are frequent between the KDP forces and the Iraqi Turkmen Front.

Kurds Attack Turkmen

"When Kurds recently attacked Turkmen, Shiiia and Sunni Turkmen united. "Turkmen throughout Turkmenili rushed to the street to demonstrate their support for their Turkmen brothers and sisters," Ketene said.

"On 10 April 2003, hundreds of Peshmerga forces poured into Turkmen city Kirkuk. The municipality buildings, government offices, military buildings, large hotels and a historical military barracks, and the land registry office were torched by Kurdish rebels.

"The looting was meant to remove all official evidence proving Turkmen presence in the Kirkuk. The land deeds for the Turkmen have been taken from the registry office, making it difficult for the Turkmen to establish the original inhabitant of the province.

"In short, I can tell you that the Turkmen are a lonely nation, no one supports them except for Turkey, which offers limited help due to its own handicaps. In Iraq they are sandwiched between Kurds and Arabs who both want to grab their land, due to the oil fields. Both want to show them as a small minority so they don't have a say in the Iraqi political equation." Ketene said.

"It was clear that the recent election would be tailored to fit Kurdish desires that are supported by unconditional U.S. support. Turkmen were firm about boycotting elections because there was no neutral international observation. It was a clear trap. The U.S. was eager to

Continued on page 80

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LITTLE TURTLE

The Indian Chief Who Orchestrated the Worst Defeat on the U.S. Army By Alan H. Brown

Chief Little Turtle, Mishikinakwa in the native tongue of the Miami Indians, was one of the greatest military leaders to ever fight on the North American continent. (Author's archives)

It is a common perception that the worst defeat inflicted by the Indians on the U. S. Army was Sitting Bull's victory over General George Armstrong Custer in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. As is so often the case in history, perception is not always reality. Chief of the Miami Indians, Little Turtle, was the greatest military leader of the Indian chiefs.

The Miamis are thought to have settled the northern Indiana and western Ohio areas around the early 1700s, after having moved down from Green Bay and establishing a village called Chikagota (Skunk Town), now known as Chicago.

Miami Indians were reported to be the most civil, most liberal and most physical of the Algonquin tribes. They were regarded as able warriors, rarely undertaking expeditions without being successful. That certainly was true under the leadership of Little Turtle.

Little Turtle was the son of a Miami Indian chief. As a boy of five, he witnessed the burning of his hometown, Pickawillany, by an army of French-Canadians in 1752. At the time, Picawillany was the largest of the Miami villages, with more 2,000 inhabitants. Perhaps that incident gave him the fierce determination to combat the colonists later on.

Upon the conclusion of the Revolutionary War in 1783, thousands of land-hungry settlers began moving down the Ohio River to carve out homesteads in the Ohio valley.

Dismayed by the continuing encroachments on their lands, the Miamis and Shawnees, under the leadership of Little Turtle and supplied by the British, carried out a series of hit-and-run excursions on the settlements located on both sides of the Ohio River.

During one of the forays, one of Little Turtle's allies captured an 11-year-old boy by the name of William Wells. Little Turtle adopted him and, under his guidance, Wells became a strong Indian warrior. Later, Wells would be instrumental in the defeat of his captors.

In 1790, George Washington responded to these incursions by commissioning General Josiah Harmer, a revolutionary soldier, to burn the villages and stored crops and to inflict on the Miami Indians such a defeat that they no longer would desire to ever attack the settlements again.

On September 30, Little Turtle's spies informed him that General Harmer, with some 1,400 regular troops and militia had left Cincinnati. He ordered families to abandon the villages and to seek safety with allies located further north.

Little Turtle, with only 150 warriors, was very concerned by the fact that they were outnumbered nearly 10 to one. He had to choose the time and place of engagement most advantageous, if he were to have any chance of success. He decided to burn the Miami villages, starting with Kekionga, a community near present Fort Wayne. The Indians continued to burn smaller villages, luring the Americans further and further into the forest.



Divide and Conquer

Harmer divided his forces, sending 200 men West to cut off any retreating Indians from the advance of the main body. Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, realizing their good fortune, sent their men around the force to lay an ambush. The soldiers' leader was overconfident and did not send out scouts. After all weren't the Indians burning their villages and retreating?

The childhood memories of his village being burned by white soldiers drove Chief Little Turtle relentlessly as he whipped his warriors into a frenzy. The ensuing ambush killed 70 soldiers and sent the remaining soldiers fleeing back toward the main force, under fire all the way.

Little Turtle fully expected the main body to attack to avenge the deaths of their men. But Harmer began a retreat that lasted for about eight miles, stopping only when his junior officers convinced him to send back a force to bury the bodies of their dead.

A force of 360 men left at dark, reaching the now-abandoned Kekionga in the morning. Here, they further divided into four groups and moved into the town, burning and looting the remaining buildings. The Indians struck, killing 113 soldiers in a fierce battle that lasted three hours.

Once again, the soldiers fled back to the main body in terror.

Harmer, his brain befuddled by brandy and afraid of defeat, once again had held his main force from action, thereby ensuring the death of 183 soldiers.

Little Turtle's small force had overcome an army that outnumbered the Indians 10:1, that was supported by two troops of cavalry, and was equipped with the latest weapons, including several cannons. Had Harmer used his forces correctly and with decisiveness, the outcome surely would have been reversed. The carnage could have been worse, but Little Turtle, against the urging of Blue Jacket, decided not to follow the fleeing, panic-ridden soldiers.

This stunning victory spread fear among the white populace, but did little to stem the flow of boats carrying settlers down the Ohio River. The allure of rich farmland outweighed any fears for their scalps. As word of Little Turtle's successes spread, those tribes heretofore reluctant to commit to the cause joined the victors, swelling their numbers to about 3,000 hardened, enthusiastic warriors.

Washington responded by selecting a successful Revolutionary War leader, General Arthur Saint Clair, to lead a new force. But once again Washington chose a man totally unfamiliar with Indian warfare.

St. Clair had about 1,400 men, of which 690 were untrained militia conscripted from jails and brothels. It was a common practice of the time for wealthier settlers to "buy" their way out of duty for a sum of two dollars a

month. To complicate matters, many militia members brought their wives, children and other camp followers, numbering about 500. Upset about the camp followers, St. Clair refused to give them food and supplies, an action that embittered the militia draftees.

On 17 September 1791, St. Clair stopped to build a fort at the crossing of the Great Miami River, 20-plus miles north of Cincinnati. St. Clair left 23 men to guard the now-completed Fort Hamilton.

Leaving Fort Hamilton, the army marched 48 miles to a campsite by the junction of two streams. Here they constructed another stronghold called Fort Jefferson and left a small garrison of 20 men.

Militia Deserts

Later that night, 300 militia, unhappy with St. Clair's previous decision not

to supply the camp followers, deserted — along with 200 of the tagalongs. St. Clair now feared that the deserters would attack a supply wagon that was en route and confiscate its wares. In response to this perceived threat, St. Clair sent 137 men to follow the deserters and protect the supply wagon.

Now St. Clair's army was reduced to 920 men. Tecumseh, a Shawnee, and his band of spies reported back to Little Turtle and his growing number of allies, on St. Clair's progress. Little Turtle

must have been overjoyed when he realized that the Americans had once again divided their forces. And now he had a much superior force of warriors.

St. Clair set camp on the banks of the Wabash River, some 40 miles north of Fort Jefferson. Normally, fortifications were made immediately, but because his men were exhausted due to the constant effort of chopping

trees and clearing brush in order to provide a path for the cannons and wagons, St. Clair made a fatal mistake: He decided to construct the barricades and fortifications in the morning.

Kept informed by his Shawnee spies, Little Turtle moved his warriors five miles north of the camp. Here they fasted and prepared for battle in the morning.

St. Clair had picked the best defensive site available in the area, an elevated meadow on the east bank of the headwaters of the Wabash River. The meadow was surrounded by dense forest that precluded a clear field of fire for the army, but afforded the Indians cover. Two lines of troops, separated by about 70 yards, were located in the center of the meadow. The militia encamped across the river west of the main encampment. Cold and tired, the troops

Continued on page 50



Commissioned by President George Washington to pacify the Miami Indians, General Anthony Wayne was the first worthy adversary of the intrepid Little Turtle, the greatest of the Indian military leaders. (Author's archives)

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FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY

By John Farnam



The Rifle You Carry Beats The Ma Deuce You Cannot

A friend just completed a 10-hour multi-agency, first responder, anti-terrorism drill. He functioned as one of the offenders. He learned good lessons. Most infantrymen currently in Iraq could probably remind us of this, but it bears repeating:

Military rifles, even modern ones, are heavy. The M16 still weighs 10 pounds when ready to go. Hanging "accessories" on a railed forend makes it unwieldy and even heavier. Over several hours, I was forced to hold the rifle in various ready positions, low ready, high ready, and to switch to and from the support hand, in order to rest fatigued muscles. I believe that this muscular fatigue is generally unappreciated.

It surely was for me. If you can't hold your gun up, you can't control it, and you can't shoot it successfully. Short, light guns are better for serious fighting than are long, heavy ones.

Training and practice are crucial. When a door suddenly opened and the forward swivel on my rifle fouled on a chair, I instantly defaulted to my pistol, while retaining my rifle muzzle-down at my support side. I didn't even realize I'd done it until I recognized a pistol sight picture on the chest of the scenario director, who was coming in to coach us in adjustments to the role-play.

Condition Red cannot be maintained for more than a few minutes: Even in the intense portions of the exercise, I found my attention drifting as fatigue overtook me. I consciously had to force myself to relax and to drop to Condition Orange. I was constantly ratcheting up again, until my senses overloaded. After seven hours, a pack of determined children probably could have overwhelmed me.

At the onset of the exercise, several deputies ran directly toward me from the outside. They didn't know exactly where

I was, and I easily shot them all, because they were running right into my front sight. Had they run forward while weaving side to side, hitting them would have been much more difficult. The lesson here is, when you're running directly toward a threat, from his perspective, you are standing still!

You need to handle loaded guns a lot, even if you don't do a lot of live fire. Handling empty guns is much less beneficial. In their "harmless" status, they become little more than furniture, and bad habits creep in. Well-practiced, ingrained movements and procedures will surface when you need them. It is better, by far, to do limited work correctly, under supervision, with a competent

trainer, than any amount of un-coached work.

You're better off alone than with incompetent partners! You are at the mercy of the least competent person in your group. Incompetent partners are as likely to

shoot you or themselves, as they are the enemy.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread: Make yourself stop and figure out tactical issues first. No matter how desperate the situation, you can't fix it if you're dead or too badly injured to fulfill your mission.

Good stuff!
/John

Developments In the Serious Handgun Industry:

The lucrative and prestigious ICE pistol contract has been awarded exclusively to SIG and H&K. All pistols, as expected, are specified to be self-decocking, SIG with their DAK system, H&K with the LEM. Glock was mysteriously

Continued on page 66

**Short, light guns are better
for serious fighting than are
long, heavy ones.**

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By Dr. Martin Brass

AMERICA AT WAR

1. PHILIPPINES SCUBA DIVING training for terrorists conducted by joint Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf militants. JI gave Abu Sayyaf \$18,000 for explosives training, in trend of terrorist groups increasing collaboration. Captured terrorists' interrogators learn that scuba divers are planting bombs on ships.

2. UNITED STATES RURAL AREAS UNPREPARED FOR terrorist attack. PORT SECURITY funds of \$565 million allocated for surveillance and cargo-screening, scrapped by Bush. ANTITANK WEAPONS, surface-to-air missiles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and machine guns from Armenia, Russia, and Georgia smuggled into United States by al Qaeda. TRUCKERS who transport loads that might irradiate or corrode property or explode must be fingerprinted. CHIEF OF FACILITIES for D.C. school district arrested on return from Qatar: Janyousi, accused as playing key role in raising funds and recruiting for "violent jihad" in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Chechnya.

3. INDONESIA NAVY AND POLICE hunt pirates suspected of three attacks and multiple kidnappings in March. Pirates operate from fishing boats under false flags, in Straits of Malacca.

4. AUSTRALIA BIOTERRORISM-ATTACK VIRUS ingredients found in laboratory.

5. COLOMBIA FIBERGLASS SUBMARINE with capacity to transport 10 tons of cocaine or weapons snatched by police 370 miles outside of Bogota. The sub is designed to smuggle drugs to speedboats headed for Mexico or United States: Colombia supplies 90% of U.S. cocaine. Some 200,000 Colombians have been killed in 50-year civil war. FARC GUERRILLAS gun down two rescue workers looking for body of slain captive.

6. UNITED KINGDOM CYBER TERROR attacks planned by terrorists. DINING IN STYLE on airplanes returns, with metal cutlery, knitting needles and nail files allowed.


7. FRANCE PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC and Interior Minister threatened by AZF terror group. AZF threatened to blow up French Rail if \$6.2 million was not paid. Unexploded bombs were discovered on rails.

8. ITALY PAPAL ASSASSINATION attempt in 1981 ordered by Soviet Union, according to East German Stasi and Bulgarian spy intel.

9. LEBANON CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORHOOD BOMBED. Three foreigners wounded. SYRIAN troops to be withdrawn amid strong anti-Syrian demonstrations.

10. SAUDI ARABIA PRINCE KHALID bin Sultan warns of terrorists crossing Iraqi border into the kingdom. SAUDIS want joint-training exercises with U.S. combat forces. THREE-DAY SIEGE: 14 Al Qaeda operatives and Moroccan fugitive responsible for bombings in Morocco and Madrid killed, Six captured. KINGDOM home to largest mob of terrorists.

11. IRAQ MOBILE AMBUSHES increase. MUJAHIDEEN fire rocket-propelled grenades then escape in cars equipped with rifles, machine guns, grenades, and grenade launchers. Insurgent Snipers communicate with mobile phones. U.S. M1 TANKS take big hit, with seven percent damaged. SADDAM WATCHES TV program of the election of his successors, the detested Kurd Jalal Talabani and the Sunnis. Corruption and tribal loyalties remain enormous stumbling blocks for democracy.



12. CUBA CHINA'S COMMUNIST REGIME replaces the Soviet Union as the sphere of influence, and creates a threat to the United States in its own back yard. China develops intelligence infrastructure to monitor U.S. activities. Chinese diplomats, scientists, engineers and military advisors saturate Cuba. — *Navyseals.com*

13. CARRIBBEAN TRINIDAD/TOBAGO AND GUYANA see increase in extremist propaganda. Intel wars; Guerillas are stockpiling arms for possible coup launched to establish Islamic republics "in paradise."

14. NIGERIA BLOODIEST PIRACY activities in years kill 30 mariners in

15. IRAN CAMOUFLAGED, TUNNEL-LIKE underground storage 20 miles outside of Tehran hides Uranium enrichment center, says Iranian exile Alireza Jafarzadeh; International Atomic Energy Agency was forbidden from inspecting site. U.S. ISIS said satellite imagery showed "some kind of tunneling". — *AP* Last year, 1,500 anti-government demonstrations staged.

16. AFGHANISTAN BARGAIN COMBAT WHEELS: Army buys 5,000 Ford F-350 Severe Off-Road 4WD pickup trucks. Cost of Thailand-built vehicles is half of that of the hummers. U.S. TROOPS fight heavily armed drug lords.

17. PAKISTAN SERIES OF ATTACKS IN LATE MARCH: Eight soldiers killed, 23 wounded in tribal battle. Fifty tribes-people killed and 150 wounded in 10-hour gun battle. Two Trains bombed: two dead, nine injured. SHRINE EXPLODES killing 25, injuring 26 worshippers.

THE LONGEST KILL

By Dale B. Cooper

Marine Scout Sniper Slaps Down Insurgents at 1,500 Yards

Sgt. Brian W. Dow and his sniper team provided security while Marine Engineers cleared a school of suspected chemical caches at a place called Al-Aziziyah just off Highway 6 south of Baghdad. All photos courtesy of Sgt. Brian W. Dow unless otherwise noted.

The 7th of April 2004 found two USMC snipers running forward through the dusty streets of Fallujah, an Iraqi city teeming with insurgents who had one mission: *kill U.S. Marines.*

Corporal Michael A. Gary, an assistant team leader and his observer, Cpl. Matthew B. Perkins were "running to the sound of gunfire," trying to link up with elements of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

"I thought I was going to pass out," said Gary about how he zig-zagged through the heavy fire, loaded down with gear. In addition to carrying a heavy-barreled SASR that weighed 32.5 pounds empty, he was also humping an M203 40mm grenade launcher that weighed 11.5 pounds empty, plus 20 pounds of ammo for the weapons, water and a pack full of stuff. No wonder he felt weak-kneed.

Gary, a veteran of OIF, was the team's expert on the SASR, a .50 caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle manufactured by Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, and Unertl, the scope maker.

The M82A1A is a semi-automatic, air-cooled, box-magazine-fed rifle chambered for the M2 Browning Machine Gun cartridge [.50 BMG or 12.7 x 99mm NATO]. It has a 10-round capacity.

"We could hear all hell breaking loose ahead of us," said Gary, who was trying to link up with 2nd Lieutenant David T. Russell's platoon. As they ran up the street, it seemed like everybody in town was shooting at them.

The main body of Alpha Company was pushing toward a mosque housing some insurgents, and then falling back — feints to confuse the enemy.

The next thing Gary and Perkins

heard were mortars falling all around them. Up to this point, most of the mortar fire had been "Hail Mary" type stuff, but this time the rebels were dropping 60mm mortar rounds right on top of Russell's men.



Sgt. Brian W. Dow hunkered down behind a berm outside Nasariyah where he scored 16 of the 17 confirmed kills he got during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gary and his spotter climbed to a rooftop position, but couldn't see any telltale mortar blasts. He and Perkins did see a couple of guys way off in the distance on another rooftop. One of them had binoculars, the other a cell phone, directing mortar fire.

Perkins took a couple of shots at them with his "40," while Gary was setting up the SASR, but there was no way Perkins could reach them. They were beyond the maximum range [1,000 yards]

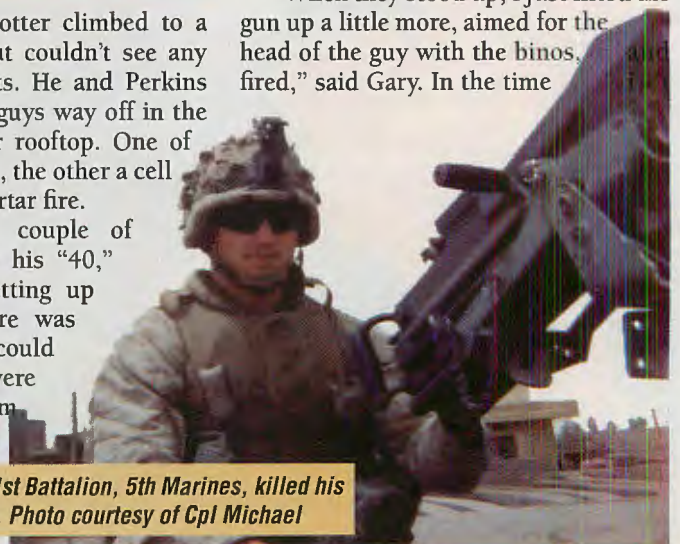
of his sniper rifle, but he was able to point Gary in their direction.

"I had no time to do any ranging," said Gary as he set the scope on a "Grand," 1,000 yards, and fired a 617-grain incendiary-tipped Raufoss round. The bullet contains a tungsten core backed by several grains of C-4 RDX particles, which is primarily used against armored vehicles.

"I came up 300 yards short as the round hit a building. But those guys didn't have a clue they were under sniper fire, so I came up 200 yards and fired again. Still short. I came up another 100, fired again and hit the building below the lip of the roof they were standing behind," Gary said as he recalled details of the "longest confirmed kill" to date in Iraq.

The guy with the binos and his buddy with the cell phone were kneeling down behind the parapet, using it for concealment. Pieces of concrete flew everywhere when that .50 cal round hit the building, causing the two guys crouching behind the lip to stand up and see what was happening.

"When they stood up, I just lifted the gun up a little more, aimed for the head of the guy with the binos, fired," said Gary. In the time



Corporal Matthew M. Michael, a Mk 19 gunner in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, killed his share of insurgents in Fallujah with 40mm high-explosive grenades. Photo courtesy of Cpl Michael



Corporal Michael A. Gary on the "GUN," a .50 caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle [SASR] firing from a rooftop position in the heart of Fallujah. Photo by Cpl Matthew B. Perkins



Sgt. Dennis J. Echlinger Jr. identifying targets with an M40 spotting scope from "relative" safety of a hide site in a building in downtown Fallujah. Official USMC photo

took for the round to travel to the target nearly a mile away, another round was chambered and Gary was able to get the semi-automatic weapon back on the target.

"I got it back just in time to see the guy explode," said Gary who believes the insurgent must have been wearing a suicide vest full of C-4 explosives, because he just disappeared. It wasn't until later in the week Marines in Alpha Company discovered nearly 100 suicide vests in a building abandoned by the insurgents.

"I've never seen anything like it. He just turned into a pink mist. I couldn't believe my eyes," said Gary who looked for, but couldn't see, where the other guy went. Perkins said he saw the man run around the corner of the roof, but curiosity killed this cat. When the guy came back and stared at what was left of his buddy in disbelief, Gary nailed him, but he didn't explode.

No sooner than Gary and Perkins sat down to calm their nerves with a cigarette, a rocket-propelled grenade hit a telephone pole next to the building they were on. Some RPG gunners had apparently seen the telltale cloud of dust kicked up by the SASR. The explosion blew some wires down on the roof, a reminder that was someone was now trying to kill them.

Later, Perkins got a 1,500-yard kill with the SASR as the commander of Alpha Company watched. But no one in Russell's platoon will forget the back-to-back kills. They gave Gary and Perkins a "standing ovation" when they came down from their rooftop position.

Up until the spring of 2004, the longest confirmed kill in Iraq had been just over 1,000 yards — but 1,500 yards was unbelievable.

"Gary was in my platoon in Charley

Company before he went to SSP [Scout Sniper Platoon]," said First Lieutenant Joshua L. Glover, the current executive officer of Alpha Company, who is now about 20 minutes down the road in Ramadi with 1/5 on his third deployment to Iraq, "But I didn't know he dropped someone at 1,500 yards. That's awesome," said Glover who led "Red Cloud," the call sign of a quick reaction force [QRF] that rescued almost a dozen Marines from 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon,



Sgt. Dow manning a sniper position in Saddam City, a slum on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Bravo Company a week later on April 15th in Fallujah.

Some Insurgents Live to Fight Another Day

When Fallujah fell to U.S. Marines last November, not all of the estimated 5,000 enemy insurgents in town were left behind to rot in the rubble. Some escaped and fled to Ramadi, another volatile town in the infamous Sunni Triangle, once a pillar of support for Saddam Hussein.

First Battalion, 5th Marines, the unit that made Fallujah a four-letter word in leatherneck lore, is now in Ramadi, a city that has twice the population of

Fallujah, squeezed into half the acreage.

Some Marines in the scout sniper platoon "extended" just to go to Ramadi, not wanting to miss the latest stop on their world-tour of hot spots. A staff sergeant currently commands the SSP. It is unusual for an NCO to occupy such a billet, but Weapons Company is showing the enemy some new wrinkles this time around, and the platoon commander was needed in another capacity.

In Fallujah, the men of Weapons Company were equally divided into Counter-Mech Platoon and Mortar Platoon, more than 170 Marines.

"CMP," as the Combined Anti-Armor Team is called, had 18 Humvees mounting .50 caliber heavy machine guns, Mk 19 grenade launchers and Tube-launched Optically tracked Wire guided [TOW] missiles in combination with M240G medium machineguns.

Second Lieutenant Adam W. Burch, the former SSP commander, says Weapons Company is now broken down into five platoons with a much broader QRF [Quick Reaction Force] mission. Burch leads one of those platoons.

"The idea here is to be more flexible on the battlefield," said the 28-year-old former sailor who earned a degree at the Citadel and was commissioned in the Marine Corps upon graduation from the prestigious military academy in 2003.

The sniper platoon has also been reorganized into four [five-man] teams, instead of six [four-man] teams. They will no longer be sitting ducks like they were in Fallujah.

"In an urban environment like the one here in Ramadi, there is an increased need for firepower and larger

Continued on page 52



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Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith

MEDAL OF HONOR



“Like every one of the men and women in uniform who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, SFC Paul Smith was a volunteer. We thank his family for the father, husband and son and brother who can never be replaced. We recall with appreciation the fellow soldiers whose lives he saved, and the many more he inspired. And we express our gratitude for a new generation of Americans, every bit as selfless and dedicated to liberty as any that has gone on before — A dedication exemplified by the sacrifice and valor of SFC Paul Ray Smith.”

President George Bush • White House Ceremony, 4 April 2005



The following is the account of SFC Paul Ray Smith's actions leading up to 4 April 2003, based upon the reports of his unit. These are the circumstances and events of 4 April 2003, that demonstrate SFC Paul Ray Smith's extraordinary valor and heroism above and beyond the call of duty.

SFC Paul Ray Smith deployed to Iraq as a platoon sergeant in B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. SFC Smith's unit of combat engineers was in direct support of Task Force 2-7 Infantry. As a part of the 11th Combat Engineer Battalion, soldiers were able to deploy rapidly to a contingency area and provide continuous combat engineer support for mobile combined arms offensive and defensive operations.

19–20 March 2003

3rd Infantry Division's 1st (Raider) Brigade controls the border crossing then begins the attack into Iraq.

21–30 March

Despite enemy contact, blown bridges, mines, sandstorms and rough terrain, the Raider Brigade moves steadily toward Objectives HANNAH, PEACH, and LIONS.

3 April

SFC Smith probes a minefield as TF 2-7 moves through the Karbala Gap to OBJ HANNAH. TF 3-69 Armor secures the bridge at OBJ PEACH.

11th Engineers cross the Euphrates on assault boats to render the bridge safe from explosive demolition. TF 3-69 and 3-7 Infantry defend the bridgehead through the night.



3–4 April

Ordered to attack OBJ LIONS (Baghdad Int'l Airport), the Raider Brigade is challenged by narrow canals and small roads. TF 2-7 moves almost entirely at night through this difficult terrain.

SFC Smith orders his driver to sleep, and personally ground guides his platoon and other maneuver vehicles throughout the night. SFC Smith does not sleep this night en route to OBJ LIONS.

Morning: 4 April

1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT) attacks OBJ LIONS, TF 3-7 Infantry and 3-69 Armor clear the airfield from the southwest to northeast. Task Force 2-7 Infantry maneuvers one company to secure 1 BCT's eastern flank from Special Republican Guard (SRG) forces in the VIP palaces, and from reinforcements from Baghdad. At approximately 0600 SFC Paul R. Smith's 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, closes in on the eastern side of the airport. Their mission: establish a blocking position along the major thoroughfare between Baghdad International Airport and Baghdad itself.





Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith
MEDAL OF HONOR
 WAR ON TERRORISM

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST • I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DE

4 April 2003

Bravo company completes emplacement of serpentine berms to prevent enemy forces from approaching the defensive position quickly.

During 2nd Lt. Borkowski's absence, 2nd Plt., Bravo Co., of which SFC Smith is now in charge, is tasked with the mission of creating an Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) Holding Area.

SFC Smith identifies an enclosed courtyard with an adjacent tower to provide overwatch of the EPW area, north of the highway. 1st Platoon, along with SFC Smith's 2nd Platoon are allocated to complete the task under SFC Smith's supervision.

SFC Smith tasks Sgt. Joshua Dean to knock a hole in the wall with his Armored Combat Earthmover (ACE) to allow access into the courtyard.

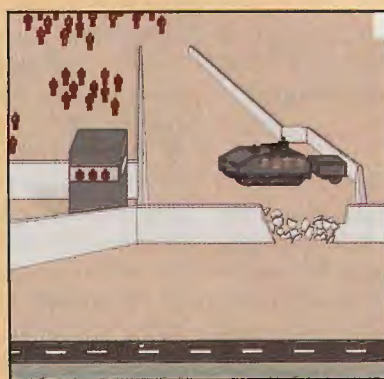
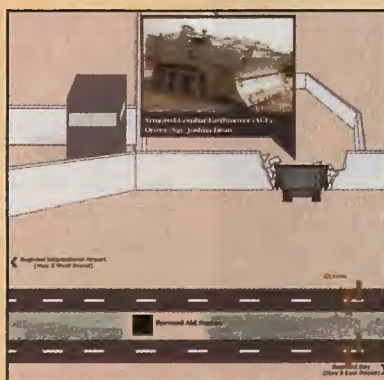
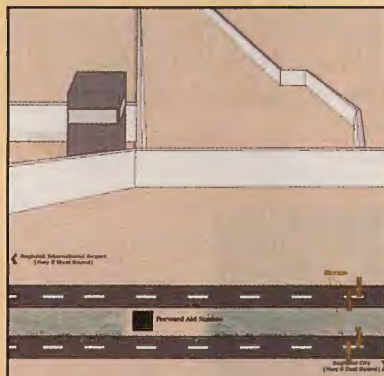
Able now to access the courtyard, SFC Smith, Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid and Sgt. Derek Pelletier (all part of 2nd PLT., Bravo Co.) enter the compound confirming it is clear.

SFC Smith tasks Staff Sgt. Hollinsaid to oversee construction of the EPW Holding Area and removal of the debris. SFC Smith posts Pfc. Thomas Ketchum and PVT. James Martens to guard the metal gate to the north.

During construction of the EPW area, Sgt. Joshua Henry checks on Pfc. Ketchum at the gate, spotting something in the distance. Borrowing Pfc. Ketchum's rifle scope, Sgt. Henry spots 10-15 enemy soldiers with small arms, 60mm mortars and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) moving towards the wall.

Sgt. Henry immediately notifies SFC Smith of the approaching enemy. SFC Smith then identifies 25-50 more enemy soldiers and tasks Staff Sgt. Hollinsaid to call for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Smith has members of 2nd Plt. retrieve weapons and form a skirmish line outside the wall opening.

As the Bradley prepares to knock down the northern gate and engage the enemy, now confirmed at 100 soldiers, three of Bravo company's M113 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) orient their .50-cal. machine guns toward the wall



opening and at the tower, now occupied by enemy soldiers.

SFC Smith leads the Bradley Fighting Vehicle outside the gate with the help of Pvt. Gary Evans, Sgt. Matthew Keller, Pvt. Martens and Spc. Garcia.

SFC Smith calls for an APC to support the effort at the gate. Having already thrown a grenade over the wall to clear the enemy, SFC Smith fires an AT-4 at the enemy while directing the fires of the small fire team.

An APC manned by SGT Louis Berwald, SSG Kevin Yetter and PV2 Jimmy Hill moves through the wall to support the action at the gate. Once inside the courtyard, Sgt. Berwald fires his APC's .50-cal. into the enemy-controlled tower.

An RPG fired from the tower cripples an APC outside of the courtyard. Fortunately, the RPG hits a rucksack attached to the outside of the APC, detonating away from the APC saving the Soldiers inside. 1SG Timothy Campbell evacuates SSG Hoover, SPC Medrano, PFC Esquivel and PVT Peagram from the APC.

The forward APC moved up from the courtyard to support the effort.

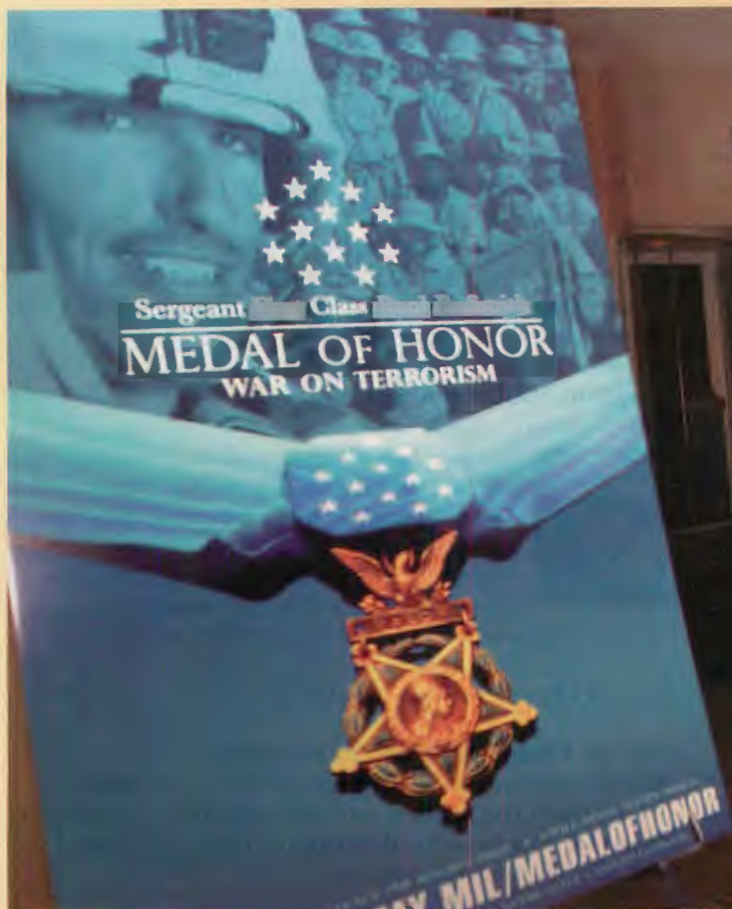
A mortar then hits the APC injuring all three occupants: Sgt. Louis Berwald, Staff Sgt. Kevin Yetter and Pvt. Jimmy Hill. The Bradley receives continued RPG hits, and running low on ammo, it withdraws. Without the Bradley, and the APC .50-cal. unmanned, SFC Smith realizes they've lost firepower dominance.

Once Staff Sgt. Yetter, Sgt. Berwald and Pvt. Hill are evacuated by Staff Sgt. Rodney Roush., SFC Smith moves into the commander's hatch to engage the enemy with the still operational .50-cal. machine gun aboard the APC. SFC Smith grabs Pvt. Michael Seaman to assist in preparing ammo.

SFC Smith orders Pvt. Seaman to back the APC into the courtyard. SFC Smith then fires on Iraqi troops in the tower, climbing the wall and coming through the gate.

SFC Smith fires more the 300 rounds (Pvt. Seaman reloaded the .50-cal. machine gun 3 times). Sgt. 1st class Smith is mortally wounded.

SFC Paul R. Smith's actions resulted in an estimated 20-50 enemy soldiers killed and stopped the deliberate enemy attack. From this point, the enemy is incapable of mounting an attack from the northern flank. His selfless actions saved the lives of more than 100 soldiers, defeated the enemy attack and inspired his platoon, B Company, 11 engineer Battalion, and task force 2-7 infantry.



HALL OF HEROES



The poster honoring SFC Paul R. Smith is posted at his posthumous induction to the Pentagon Hall of Heroes. INSET: Shortly after unveiling her late husband's new headstone, Birgit Smith visits his grave 5 April 2005, at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Smith's husband, SFC Paul Ray Smith, was mortally wounded saving his platoon in Operation Iraqi Freedom and is the first Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor in the conflict.



Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith
MEDAL OF HONOR
 WAR ON TERRORISM

Other Soldiers of 3rd Infantry Division

For the sake of consistency, Soldier's ranks are presented from Company records at the eve of deployment to Iraq and in many cases are not current. Some awards may not be listed. Soldiers are presented in alphabetical order.

Sergeant Louis Berwald

Bravo Company, Team Leader



Twenty-three year old Sergeant Berwald was a Team Leader in Bravo Company and was manning the .50-Cal. machinegun on the APC before it was struck with a mortar round. He sustained injuries to his face, shoulder, and hand and was evacuated from the courtyard by SFC Roush. Sergeant Berwald received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device and a Purple Heart.

Second Lieutenant Brian Borkowski

Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon Leader



Lieutenant Borkowski, 27, of Cleveland, was on a mission with A Company of the 2-7 Infantry, breaching a wall with an armored combat earthmover (ACE) on the south side of the highway when the combat in the courtyard occurred. He was SFC Smith's Platoon Leader and was awarded the Army

Commendation Medal with Valor Device.

First Sergeant Timothy Campbell

Bravo Company, First Sergeant



First Sergeant Campbell, Bravo Company's First Sergeant, organized a fire team to attack enemy troops in the tower from the southern side of the main wall while SFC Smith was firing from the APC inside the courtyard. He earned a Silver Star with Valor Device and a Purple Heart.

Private Gary Evans

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer



Private Evans of Mulino, Oregon was with Smith at the metal gate on the far side of the courtyard. He assisted SFC Smith and Sgt. Keller in firing AT-4 against enemy positions. When he ran low on ammunition he returned through the breach in the wall to get more. Again Evans returned to the courtyard where he attempted to unhook the trailer from the APC along with several other

Soldiers. After SFC Smith was killed Private Evans drove the APC through the breach to the aid station. Private Evans received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device.

Sergeant Joshua Henry

Bravo Company, Team Leader



Sergeant Joshua Henry went to the metal gate and used Private First Class Ketchum's rifle scope to look out at the field. He was the first to spot the Iraqi troops massing for attack. He informed SFC Smith of the enemy presence and then began to engage Iraqi's climbing over the wall. When the APC

was hit, Henry helped evacuate Staff Sergeant Yetter and Sgt. Berwald to the aid station.

Private Jimmy Hill

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer (picture not available)

Private Hill, 20, a Combat Engineer with 1st Platoon, was driving the APC when it was struck by the mortar round. He received a shrapnel wound to the neck and was evacuated. For his actions in Iraq, Hill was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device and a Purple Heart.

Specialist Tony Garcia

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer



Specialist Garcia was one of the Soldiers guarding the metal gate at the far end of the courtyard. He engaged enemy forces with SFC Smith from his position.

Staff Sergeant Lincoln Hollinsaid

Bravo Company, Squad Leader - KIA 7 April 2003



Staff Sergeant Lincoln Hollinsaid from Malden, Illinois, crossed the courtyard with SFC Smith and Sgt. Pelletier to look through the metal gate for enemy troops. When they discovered the massing Iraqi force Staff Sergeant Hollinsaid ran back to find a Bradley Fighting Vehicle to engage the enemy.

When Sgt. 1st Class Smith was killed, Staff Sergeant Hollinsaid became the new Platoon Sergeant in place of his fallen friend. Three days later on 7 April 2003, Lincoln Hollinsaid was killed in the 3rd Infantry Division's attack on the center of Baghdad. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Sergeant Matthew Keller

Bravo Company, Squad Leader



Sergeant Keller, a 25-year-old from Key Largo, Florida, crossed the courtyard with Staff Sgt. Hollinsaid and SFC Smith to look through the metal gate after the wall was knocked down. When the Bradley Fighting Vehicle knocked down the gate he followed Smith through it and fired AT-4s and his weapon at

Iraqi positions and then returned through the breach while Sgt. 1st Class Smith fired the .50-Cal. machinegun from the APC. Sgt. Keller received a Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Private First Class Thomas Ketchum

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer (picture not available)

Private First Class Ketchum was one of the Soldiers guarding the metal gate at the far end of the courtyard. He engaged enemy forces with SFC Smith from his position.

Continued on page 62

"Five Second Abs... and the Magnificent Seven"



How Seven Old-Time Exercises Burn Fat From Your Waistline in Record Time

By Frank Sherrill

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. The idea was preposterous. Matt Furey, a world champion martial artist and world-renowned fitness guru was telling me that I could "reduce inches from my waistline with a few deep breathing exercises" that he calls *The Magnificent Seven*.

And get this, one repetition of the deep breathing exercise he recommends most takes only 2 to 5 seconds. **Five second abs???** Was this a lark, or what?

In all my years of doing cardio, pumping iron and generally depriving myself, no one ever told me that deep breathing exercises alone could greatly ramp up my metabolism, turning me into a fat-burning machine.

No one ever told me that one of the main reasons behind cardiovascular exercise was simply to get you breathing harder so that the increased oxygen in your system cranks up your metabolism.

Don't know about you, but due to my skepticism about these claims, I decided to do some research on deep breathing. And to my utter amazement I found that more oxygen in your body equals:

- a.) a revved-up metabolism
- b.) greater strength and endurance
- c.) improved health and...
- d.) faster weight loss.

In addition to the above, when you do deep breathing exercises the way Matt Furey teaches in his best-selling *Combat Abs* program, you have better circulation, better digestion and an increased ability to handle stress. You have a feeling of calmness and well-being. You look younger, feel better, have a sharper mind... and greater energy.

Now that's a lot of benefits, don't you think?

Those reasons alone were enough for me to **get Furey's program and learn** – but there's more.

Learn What to Eat and What NOT to Eat

In addition to the deep breathing benefits – Furey's *Combat Abs* course was unique because it gave me details about his amazing **Furey Fat Loss Program** – a program that helps you lose weight without losing strength or depriving yourself. Matt created it in 1997, on the road to winning his world title in Beijing. **And it works!**

In *Combat Abs* I also learned a series of **abdominal exercises I could do, get this, while standing on my feet**. I was told that old-time boxers, wrestlers and martial artists had better abs than the athletes of today and they did so without crunches and other lie-down abdominal exercises that most people find boring.



Matt Furey

won a national collegiate wrestling title in 1985 and a world shuai-chiao kung fu championship in 1997. Furey has a knack for taking the average and ordinary person and transforming him with his powerful programs. Furey was inducted into the

Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and spends much time each year traveling throughout the world, searching for the very best information available to his world-wide audience. His website, www.mattfurey.com, is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

Upon hearing this I began to do some research. I wanted to find these so-called "great abs" legends of yesteryear. To my surprise, I DID find them and their abs were incredible. And believe me, Furey REALLY did top-notch historical research on this.

So I bought *Combat Abs*. A few days later, when it arrived in the mail, I ripped open the package and starting rifling through the course. To say I was amazed with what I read would be an understatement.

exercises you **MUST** do to ensure a healthy pain-free lower back!

- The exercises that make your abs so rock-solid tough that you'll laugh when punched in the midsection!
- The secret to setting, and most importantly, achieving, all your health and fitness goals!
- and much more...



One Man Took 20" off His Waist

After doing the exercises for a couple days I quickly noticed a change in my waistline. My abs were definitely tighter and harder and my clothes were fitting better. At that point I readily understood why Furey gets so many testimonials for his programs, including the following:

Using your Combat Abs system I have taken 20 full inches off my waist. I look so much better I think that it saved my marriage!

Sincerely,
Rick Hackworth, Ph.D.

Combat Abs is packed with one ab sculpting and strengthening exercise after another – all systematically taught, so that you can progress from the raw beginner stage to the level of mastery – and quickly, too.

In *Combat Abs* you will learn...

- 7 exercises that will strengthen and tighten your abs like nothing else in the world!
- A deep breathing isometric exercise that tightens and tones your abdominals within days!
- Abdominal exercises that massage your internal organs – and how this aids in losing excess flab!
- The abdominal

If you've come this far with me, one thing is for certain, you probably want a set of rock-hard abs and a powerful yet lean waistline. So you're now faced with one of two choices:

1. Stop reading this article, watch some tee-vee, do nothing for your body and remain unsatisfied with your appearance.
2. Order your copy of *Combat Abs* today and change your life for the better.

I certainly hope you go for option #2 because doing so will give you the waistline you want and deserve.

"Just nodding your head won't row the boat."

Irish proverb

Call (813) 994 8267 to place your order for *Combat Abs*. Only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H U.S. – (\$12 S&H foreign). Or visit us online at www.mattfurey.com/combat_abs.html

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The Moral Obligation to Train Like You Fight

Text & Photos by Max Fidelis

The Marines Go To Hot Ranges

"In the winter time, Caesar so trained his legions in all that became soldiers and so habituated them to the proper performance of their duties, that when in the spring he committed them to battle against the Gauls it was not necessary to give orders for they knew what to do and how to do it." —Julius Caesar

"Any leader of Marines has only one moral obligation to his or her Marines. That is to train them to accomplish their mission, fight, survive, and return home alive." So began the introduction of John Farnam, President of Defense Training International, Inc. (DTI) by Lieutenant Colonel Freddie Blish to a class of more than 20 Marines assembled from I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) for the seventh and most recent DTI Enhanced Military Combat Pistol course. Blish also emphasized to the Marines assembled that they "didn't know what they didn't know" and that they needed to open their minds and break the parochial "if it wasn't invented here it can't be good" attitude often too pervasive among Marines.

Thus, enter former Officer of Marines and Vietnam veteran (a platoon commander with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment) John Farnam, considered one of the top six firearms instructors in the world. John and his lovely bride, Vicki, with their all-volunteer DTI staff of Steve Camp, Steve Van Mohl, Peter Tassuig, Tom Burris, and Keith Brown, augmented by

LtCol Blish, 1stLt Michelle Melendez, CWO3 Phil Ross, MSgt Earl Mitchell, MSgt Mark Godfrey and GySgt Paul Headley began introducing what John Farnam likes to facetiously call "radical concepts" to I MEF Marines via an intense two-day, 800-round enhanced handgun-training program.

The first "radical concept" was that of a "Hot Range." Most military ranges are run as a "Cold Range." In other words, a Marine or soldier will not load their magazine or the firearm until told to do so by the range master -- almost always prior to firing a very regimented and prescribed string of fire, with the firearms immediately unloaded and shown safe upon completion of the firing drill. This clearly flies in the face of "training how you'll fight" and develops a "nanny state" mindset among warriors. However, the "Hot Range" treats the students like adults and warriors, requiring them to carry a loaded firearm at all times on the range, and makes them responsible for knowing what condition their firearm and its magazine are in at all times -- essentially training students "how to live with firearms." As John Farnam so eloquently asks, "if it is not safe to do it here, when is it safe?"

The fact is, the Marine Corps probably teaches basic firearms marksmanship better than any service in the world, as evidenced at Camp Perry National matches. The problem is that marksmanship comprises only one leg of LtCol Jeff Cooper's ascribed Combat Triad. Combat Mindset, making up a second leg, is also taught fairly well by the Marine Corps, especially in re-



I MEF Marine fires a "Zipper" drill on Salute Products, Inc., self-resetting steel reactive target. An outgrowth of the old "Mozambique" drill, Zipper drills acknowledge the relative weakness of a pistol round.

cent years with the advent of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Where the Marine Corps (and all other U.S. military services with the exception of some of their special units) have been failing is the third leg, Manipulation or Gun Handling Skills. The Marine Corps does teach and apply the four firearms safety rules, but fails to teach the very combat gun-handling skills that are addressed in Marine Corps Reference Publication 3-01B on Pistol Marksmanship.

Getting Down to Business

The U.S. military has been teaching soldiers and Marines how to compete on a “one way pistol or rifle range” vice “fighting on a two way range.” Teaching gun handling skills and fighting on a “two way range” is what John Farnam and his DTI staff does extremely well, and why they were selected to train I MEF Marines.

The DTI Enhanced Military Combat Handgun Course is a variation of the DTI Advanced Handgun Course. The course, as previously mentioned, is two intense days of training. The following Lesson Outline shows the material taught.

Day One

- Introduction and Firearms Safety
- Fundamentals Of Marksmanship Review
- Pistol Presentation From The Holster
- Defensive Marksmanship
- Movement Off The Line Of Force
- Principles Of Target Engagement
- “Zipper” Drill
- Pistol Reloading
 - Tactical Reload
 - Combat/Speed Reload
- Pistol Immediate Action
- Shooting While Wounded
- “Injured Limb” Strong Hand Only
- Low/No Light Shooting Techniques

Day Two

- Pistol Retention And Disarms
- Pistol Support Hand Only
- One Handed Reloading
- One Handed Immediate Action
- Barricades/Team Synergy Drills
- DTI QUALIFICATION

The second “radical concept” that John Farnam introduced was that pistols are not effective fight stoppers, but instead a piece of emergency life saving equipment that is *an instantly reactive defensive firearm. It makes a poor offensive weapon.* Any sensible person knowing they were going into harm’s way would arm himself with a rifle or shotgun, keeping the pistol for defen-



John Farnam introduces the Defensive Training Institute’s Enhanced Military Combat Pistol Course to a group of I MEF Marines.

sive purposes or part of the individual’s retention system. Good, high quality, fixed and folding blade knives were also highly encouraged to be carried as another layer of the individual’s defensive and firearm retention system.

As John explained to the Marines, “Handguns sacrifice power in exchange for convenience and relative small size. They have the advantage of being comfortably carried and being brought into action quickly.” This means that proper shot placement is extremely important when fighting with a handgun, or in John’s parlance, conducting a “zipper” drill. Basically, you start shooting at

the pelvic region firing one shot, then at the lower lung region, followed by the upper cardiac region, finally the lower throat or head region. Repeat as necessary. The Salute Products, Inc. new spring-loaded, self-resetting “Zipper Plinger” is ideal for performing this drill.

This drill was combined with presenting the pistol from the holster, which for some Marines was their first time “drawing” from a holster. Most Marines wore the excellent Safariland 6004, Eagle Industries or BlackHawk SAS tactical thigh holsters, although there were a few that used the issued



Vicki Farnam supervises I MEF Marines conducting “injured limb” strong-hand-only firing drill.

Bianchi holster. All worked fine for the class, however the Marines using the Bianchi holster felt it placed them at a severe disadvantage when presenting the pistol. Also, the standard-issue green nylon lanyard was found to be inadequate, especially when compared to superior lanyard systems produced by Gem-Tech. Like many pieces of equipment issued by the Army or Marine Corps, they may look good on a parade field, but are far from functional on the battlefield. I am sure there are Sergeants Major who will be spinning over that comment.

More "Radical Concepts"

A third "radical concept" that John introduced to the I MEF Marines was the concept of "moving off the line of force." Repeated studies during "force on force" Simunitions training by the staff at American Tactical Shooting Association have discovered that moving three to four feet off the enemy's line of attack was often all it took to steal the initiative and defeat the threat. This is similar to getting inside the enemy's "OODA



Vicki Farnam supervises I MEF Marines conducting trigger manipulation drills.

Loop." In many combat situations Marines may find themselves forced to react to the actions of a threat. If they were to continue to stand in one place, as often required in most military "square range" firearms training, the Marines would remain reactive to the enemy's attack and subsequently be wounded or killed. The other benefit of teaching movement off the line of force is training students to move to cover.

A fourth "radical concept" that

LtCol Blish brought to the equation was that of verbalizing the threat. As he explained to the I MEF Marines, "If while providing perimeter security as part of a convoy stopped for a broken vehicle, you start shooting at an insurgent with a 'body bomb,' but no one else knows why, your fellow Marines might hesitate or if improperly trained 'panic fire' on innocent civilians. However, if you were to shout 'bomb,' while firing a controlled pair to the suicide bomber's 'brain housing group,' you not only identify why you are shooting but also provides situational awareness to your fellow Marines. The commands

Continued on page 54

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At the Treaty of Greene Ville, General Wayne (standing, right foreground with paper) and Little Turtle (standing, left foreground with sash) struck a peace among worthy adversaries. (Author's archives)

LITTLE TURTLE • Continued from page 33

cut down trees and built huge fires to warm themselves and cook their dinner.

Early on the morning of 4 November, St. Clair was awakened by a scout who informed him that he thought an attack would take place that day. St. Clair began to arouse his troops, but it was too late.

A light snow fell as the Indians, hunkering down low and firing behind trees, charged the militia. The militia panicked, dropped their weapons, broke ranks and fled back across the river to join the main camp. The Indians then surrounded the main encampment, pouring deadly accurate fire into the ranks, concentrating on officers and artillerymen.

In less than an hour, half of St. Clair's soldiers, including all the artillerymen, were killed or wounded. St. Clair, in considerable pain due to gout, rallied his men to charge into the woods. But each time, the Indians fell back, all the while shooting from behind trees, killing more and more soldiers.

Realizing that a massacre was about to occur, St. Clair ordered his men to charge the right and then retreat across the river to the road. The men did so, many dropping their weapons and losing their greatcoats in order to run faster. That day the snow turned raspberry and the river ran red.

A Stunning Defeat

St. Clair and his remaining men struggled down the road to Fort Jefferson. It's not clear how many men survived the

battle. One source stated some 620 soldiers and 24 civilians were slain. Another stated that out of the 920 that held the ground at the Wabash River only 580 lived. That would mean that 340 soldiers died, making it the largest loss of life for the United States Army to the Indians. In either case, it would be the greatest defeat for the United States Army by any Indian confederation.


Estimated losses by the Indians ranged from 20 to 70 warriors.

Washington then charged General Anthony Wayne to bring the territory under control. Wayne also was a highly successful Revolutionary War leader, but he appreciated what tough adversaries the Indians could be. And with the knowledge of how battle-wise Little Turtle and Blue Jacket were, he set about training his army to fight. Two years of hard work had molded his 3,500-man, well-armed army into a tough outfit, ready for battle.

Little Turtle tried many times to lure Wayne into battle before the American was ready, but he never rose to the bait, even though the warrior destroyed an important supply convoy.

Now Little Turtle was worried. He realized that Wayne would be a formidable opponent and urged his clan to seek peace, to no avail. Even though he had won significant victories over the white man, he was unable to convince his peer not to battle. Because of his stance, Little Turtle was removed as warrior chief and replaced by Blue Jacket.

Continued on page 64

A large, waving American flag serves as the background for the top half of the advertisement.

**To the warriors
who defend our
freedom at
home and abroad...**

A black and white photograph of soldiers in a field. In the foreground, two soldiers are visible, one holding a rifle. In the background, several military helicopters are parked on a flat, open area.

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Sgt. Brian W. Dow firing his M40A3 sniper rifle into Nasariyah from the bow of an Assault Amphibious Vehicle in Regimental Combat Team One.

LONGEST KILL • Continued from page 39

numbers of Marines inside buildings and residences to have 100% security," wrote Sgt. Nolan J. Kowalski in an e-mail from the capital of Anbar province.

"Sometimes we send out 8-man teams," added Corporal Clay Anderson, an assistant sniper team leader, in another e-mail to this reporter from Ramadi where he and Kowalski are on their third deployment to Iraq in 24 months.

SSP is not occupying static positions on rooftops for days like it did in Fallujah. Sniper teams are moving around a lot more in Ramadi, setting up urban ambushes.

Unlike Fallujah where SSP shooters ran out of match-grade ammunition twice, Staff Sergeant Brian W. Dow, the platoon commander, doesn't expect his sniper teams to be shooting as many times as they did in Fallujah. He's urging them to adhere to the time-honored practice of "one shot, one kill."

Since it's very difficult to maintain a clandestine presence in densely-populated urban environments like Ramadi, sniper teams from 1/5 are being inserted into town for 24 hours or less at a time and then extracted so that the enemy is always kept off balance, constantly wondering where they're going to strike next. Dow, a member of the sniper community for most of his 12-1/2 years in uniform, has 25 men in the sniper platoon, including himself.

Paying Your Dues

Unlike Burch, who has never been in combat, Dow earned his stripes in Na-



SR-25: Gas-operated, semi-automatic 7.62mm Stoner SR-25 rifle with 20-round detachable box magazine will allow Marine snipers to keep firing at moving targets without having to take their eyes off the enemy while they bolt another round into the chamber. Photo Courtesy of Knights Mfg. Co.

sariyah during the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003. Dow rode to the rescue when Task Force Tarawa from Camp Lejeune got chewed up in an ambush. The Marines were



Sgt. Brian W. Dow and other members of "Rattler Team" on a berm about two hours north of Diwaniyah in south-central Iraq.

suckered into the kill zone by a group of Iraqis who pretended to surrender, but then opening fire on them, and launching a volley of RPGs at their Amtracks, torching several of them. Almost two-dozen Marines died.

"That's what was briefed to me as we rolled up to Nasariyah," said Dow, recalling his days as a scout sniper team leader in 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, part of Regimental Combat Team One. The mission was to set up a picket line in Nasariyah so that the rest of the MEF, Marine Expeditionary Force coming up the road behind the battalion, could

pass through safely.

Dow spent eight hours as head of "Rambler Team," engaging targets from his position at a key crossroads in Nasariyah.

This reporter was embedded with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during OIF, and was approaching a vital bridge over the Euphrates River on the morning of March 26, 2003 when to the south, I could see smoke rising from Nasariyah, about 20 Klicks down river.

Marines in 1/5 could hear calls for help on the battalion radio net as Tarawa fought for its life in the streets of Nasariyah. They could also see Marine aircraft and helicopter gunships swooping down like birds of prey.

Dow kept notes on all of his kills, but one stands out: From a prone position behind his M40A3 sniper rifle on a bipod, he could see a man through his

8.5 power ANPVS-10 day-night scope, about to get into a fuel truck and head toward his intersection like a motorized "Molotov cocktail." The man never got to put his foot on the gas pedal. Dow killed him.

As a rule, the only medal snipers ever receive is the Purple Heart, a medal they don't want. But Dow was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for preventing further loss of life among a Marine machine gun element manning that key intersection along Highway 7.

"It was about nine o'clock in the morning when some Marines nearby called for me to take a look at a bunch of guys milling around an old fuel truck about 1,000 yards down the road. I believed they were getting ready to hop in that thing and come flying down the road at us," said Dow.

ANPVS-10's are targeted in meters, so Dow did some quick math in his head, subtracting ten percent from the estimated yardage, and set his scope on 915, the maximum range of an M40A3.

"The guy, who was trying to get into the cab of that truck, looked my way as I aimed center mass and squeezed the trigger," said Dow who hit the man in the chest and knocked him on his butt. At that range, the crosshairs on a normal hunting scope would cover the target, but the scope Dow had on his sniper rifle has what is called a "16 mil dot duplex," four dots on the right side, four down the left, and four up and down. Highly trained snipers use those mil dots to size up the target. That's how he knew the range was 915 meters, or one thousand yards.

Six to eight other guys standing near the dead man scattered. Dow got two of them as they ran backwards at an angle to a footbridge. "I fired three shots at the crowd as fast as I could manipulate the bolt, leading them as they backpedaled, knowing I would hit one or two of them," said Dow. He thinks he hit one of them in the hip and another in the shoulder.

When Dow left Nasiriyah the dude he killed was still lying in the dirt beside the fuel truck. Dow never took another shot until he reached Baghdad; a 200-meter night shot. Dow took out an Iraqi sniper by letting him "wail away" with his AK-47 until he got a fix on his muzzle flash and silenced him with a head shot.

Dow wound up the war with 17 confirmed kills, 16 of them in Nasiriyah. That was then....but this is now.

A Veteran Team

Dow feels like an NFL coach with a team of Pro-Bowlers. Sgt. Dennis J. Echlinger Jr. is his platoon sergeant. Sergeant Gerald Hooey is his chief scout sniper, both veterans of Fallujah. Hooey is one of the fastest snipers on the M40A3 when it comes to rapid bolt manipulation. He can fire five rounds of 7.62mm match ammo and hit 4-inch steel discs between 100 and 500 yards in 8.3 seconds, but Hooey hopes to increase his rate of accurate fire if he can get his hands on a Stoner SR-25 in Ramadi, a new gas operated 7.62mm semi-automatic sniper rifle that has a 24-inch heavy match barrel and a 20-round detachable box magazine. A limited number of SR-25s are available to Marine sniper platoons.

"There are gonna be times when guys take off running, and you can stay on him with the SR-25 until he drops," said Hooey who left Fallujah with four confirmed kills and four probables. He had to lead one guy five feet with his bolt action M40A3 as he ran across an alley with an AK-47 in his hands. His longest kill of the campaign was 664 yards on the day before 1/5 was pulled out of Fallujah and replaced by an Iraqi brigade.

Another Pro Bowler is Corporal Jason R. Garza, a 25-year-old veteran of OIF-1 and OIF-2. Garza was a SAW gunner on Sniper Team Three in 1/5 when the "Fighting Fifth" went up the middle of Iraq in March 2003, but he didn't get any "trigger time" behind a sniper rifle. However, he went to Fallujah as a team leader in "Seminole Charlie," one of the sniper teams in 1/5 and wound up with two confirmed kills and a couple of probables.

"It was like being in a shooting gallery," said the young Marine from Victoria, Texas who was attached to Alpha Company.

Garza's team split up as it moved into position. Garza and Corporal Blake D. Flannery set up on top of a building on the east side of Fallujah to provide overwatch for the company as it moved into town, clearing buildings as it went.

The other half of the team, Gary, the assistant team leader and Perkins, his spotter, took up another position on the outskirts of Fallujah. A sniper burned Garza's neck with an AK-47 bullet, leaving a permanent scar. Although he doesn't dwell on how close he came to being killed, it definitely got his attention.

"Anybody on rooftops in Fallujah

Continued on page 77



TOP: Sgt. Dow cradling his M40A3 sniper rifle as he checks out a position south of Baghdad.

ABOVE: Sgt. Dow takes a break on a berm south of Baghdad.

BELOW: Members of "Rattler Team" in Kuwait before heading north into Iraq. L to R: Team leader, Sgt. Brian W. Dow, Navy corpsman HM3 Brian Elleman, radio operator Cpl Justin Cleaves and assistant team leader Cpl Luke Pitzrick.



must remain simple one-or-two-syllable words like 'Bomb,' 'Gun' or 'Knife.' Anything other than that during a stressful situation will be too difficult to shout clearly." Thus, with every firing drill John would initiate by yelling out the threat weapon. The students would repeat the threat while engaging the steel reactive targets.

There were a lot more "radical concepts" that John and his DTI staff introduced to the I MEF Marines during the two days of intense firearms training, to include the very

demanding DTI graduation exercise performed on the Safe Direction Steel Rotator designed by Steve Camp. Comments from senior Marine officers and Staff Non-Commissioned Officers can easily be summed up in this common statement, "I

have been in the Marine Corps for almost 20 years and this is the first time I have learned how to fight with my pistol. I shudder to think about the number of times I went into harms way ill trained. I didn't know what I didn't know. This type of training must become standard throughout the Marine Corps." John simply doesn't just teach enhanced marksmanship, but instead

enhanced tactical mindset training.

John Farnam is more than a combat veteran, retired law enforcement officer, and firearms trainer. He is a warrior poet, who interjects significant examples from history, as well as readings from Shakespeare and Kipling, to inspire and motivate his students to perform at a higher level than they believed possible.



I MEF Marine negotiating the Barricade/Team Synergy Drills.

Continued on page 58



CWO3 Ross and John Farnam observe two I MEF Marines negotiating the low wall barricade during the Barricade/Team Synergy Drill. Targets are the Safe Directions Rotator and Salute Products self-resetting Large Practical Plingers. John Farnam likes the use of steel reactive targets due to their instant feedback to students and instructors. All of the Marines concurred.

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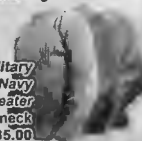
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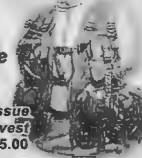


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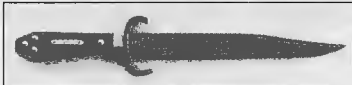
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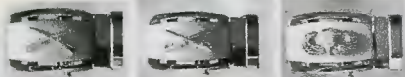
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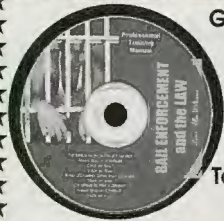
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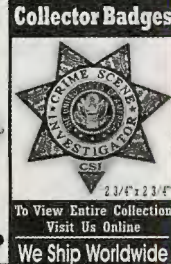
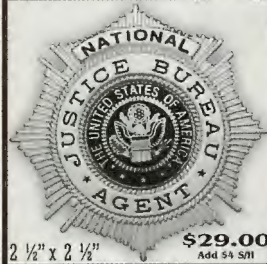
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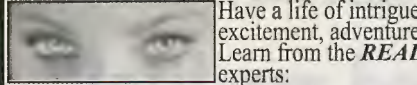
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Alpha Books	13	Chase Durer	C4	Kel-Tec	64	Paladin Press	5	Sure-Fire	40
Aimpoint	10	Cove Shoe Co.	17	Kestrel	71	Para Ordnance	11	Tamiami Int.	55
American Watch	63	Dark Ops Knives	3	Rafnar Int.	19	Ratchet Belt Co.	55	TCI	C2
ARMS	21	DPMS	5	LA Police Gear	9	Real War Stories	76	Texas Tactical Supply	30
Barrett Rifles	16	EO Tech	48	Laser Devices	79	R.M. Equipment	78	Wiggy's	58
Best Made Designs	59	Global School Inv.	55	Matt Furey	45	Rockwood	81	Wiley-X	7
Black Ink Design	81	Hydrastorm	C3	Military.com	76	Silverman's	55	Wilson Tactical	19
Bushmaster	78	Hurley & Withington	27	Militec	26	Southern Ordnance	30	7.62 Design	76
Bushrag	79	Inter-American Security	55	NIC Law Enforcement	55	Specter Gear	77		
CamelBak	49-65	Jim Morris	80	One Stop Knife Shop	33	Steelcutter Pub.	31		
Carroll Media	77	Jonathan Ciener	55	Otis	15	Steve Arnold's Gunroom	31		

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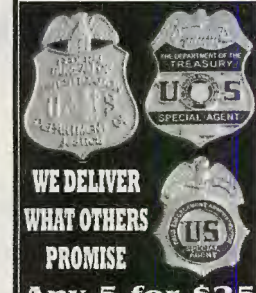
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Max Fidelis is a field-grade Officer of Marines.



1 MEF Marines negotiate a low wall barricade during the Barricade/Team Synergy Drill while CW03 Ross and John Farnam supervise.

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



RECOGNIZED AT CPAC

By Dr. Martin Brass

It's been 30 years, and *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine pushes on giving coverage to topics that the liberal press shies away from. *SOF* made it through the Cold War, the war in Afghanistan, the insurgencies in El Salvador, the war in the Balkans, Gulf War I and II and myriad other conflicts and war zones. And *SOF* continues in the fight against terrorism as well as supporting the right to keep and bear arms. *SOF* has survived thanks to our faithful readers, and as Robert K. Brown puts it, "it's been a hell of a ride!"

Finally, *SOF* is being formally recognized for its contributions. *SOF*'s 30th anniversary was acknowledged at the prestigious annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) held in Washington, D.C. on 18 February 2005 attended by more than 4,000 attendees.

According to American Conservative Union President David Keene, who is also an NRA Director, CPAC is the country's oldest and largest annual gathering of grassroots conservatives. For more than thirty years, CPAC has served as the annual reunion of conservatives from all across America.

SOF publisher Robert K. Brown was seated at the head banquet table along with such notables as NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, NRA President Kayne Robinson, NRA First Vice-President Sandy Froman, NRA Second Vice President John Sigler, as well as former U.S. Senator Zell Miller (D-Georgia) and John O'Neill, Swift Boat spokesman and one of the authors of the best seller, *Unfit For Command*, which questioned John Kerry's Vietnam service and his anti-war activities.

Senator Miller presented Admiral Roy Hoffman, USN (Ret.), founder and chairman of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth with CPAC's "Courage Under Fire Award," during CPAC's annual Ronald Reagan banquet.

Senator Miller, a former Marine, noted that "The Swift Boat Veterans performed an invaluable service to America. These veterans took a lot of undeserved criticism for having the courage to speak the truth. I am honored... to present them with this award in recognition of their courage under fire."

Bravo to the Swifties, and bravo to *SOF*. ✖

Opposite Top: From left to right: NRA President Kayne Robinson, NRA Board Member and SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown, NRA First Vice-President Sandy Froman and Jim Warner, former Vietnam POW chat before CPAC banquet. Opposite Bottom: RKB standing, and John O'Neill of Swift Boat fame were among notable conservative dignitaries attending CPAC's annual Ronald Reagan banquet. Below: RKB signs autographs while Swiftie and author of Unfit for Command does the same. For more information, log on to www.cpac.org





Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith

MEDAL OF HONOR

WAR ON TERRORISM



Continued from page 44

Private James Martens

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer



Private Martens was one of the Soldiers guarding the metal gate at the far end of the courtyard. He engaged enemy forces with SFC Smith from his position.

Specialist Daniel Medrano

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer



Specialist Medrano helped to evacuate Staff Sergeant Yetter from the APC after the mortar round struck it. Then he joined the fire team First Sergeant Campbell organized in attacking the tower from the southern side of the wall.

Private First Class Jason Meyer

Bravo Company, tracked vehicle driver - KIA 7 April 2003



Private First Class Meyer was a member of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company. He was killed in action on 7 April 2003 in the attack on the center of Baghdad. Meyer was the third 11th Engineer Battalion casualty of the war. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device.

Sergeant Derek Pelletier

Bravo Company, Team Leader



Sergeant Pelletier was with SFC Smith beyond the metal gate and fired several AT-4s at enemy positions along the far wall and in the tower. SFC Smith was Pelletier's Platoon Sergeant and they had known each other for nearly four years. Pelletier earned a Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Sergeant First Class Rodney Roush

Bravo Company, Platoon Sergeant



SFC Roush was on the southern side of the wall with elements of 1st Platoon. When the APC was hit he moved into the courtyard and evacuated Sergeant Berwald who had been injured in the blast.

Private Michael Seaman

Bravo Company, Combat Engineer



Private Seaman, 21, was engaging the enemy near the APC when it was struck by the mortar round. On SCF Smith's order he got in and backed it up into the courtyard. From the driver's seat Seaman fed ammunition to the .50-Cal. machinegun SFC Smith was firing. Smith ordered him to "stay down." When Seaman saw Sgt. 1st Class Smith get hit he got out of the vehicle and began calling for a medic. Private Seaman received an Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device for his actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Kevin Yetter

Bravo Company, Squad Leader



Staff Sergeant Yetter was in the APC when it was struck by the mortar round. He received shrapnel wounds to the face and eyes and was evacuated to an aid station by Private Medrano. Yetter earned a Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Story and images courtesy of the webmasters at www.army.mil
Log on to watch the "Battlescape" flash file and hear the sounds of the actual skirmish as recorded on 4 April 2003.

Medal of Honor Facts from www.cmoh.org

- The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, it is often called the **Congressional Medal of Honor** and has been awarded to 3,460 recipients since its inception for 3,455 separate acts of heroism performed by 3,441 individuals (including 9 "unknowns").
- Today there are 124 living recipients of the Medal, 50% of whom earned their Medals over 50 years ago while serving in either WWII (45) or Korea (17).
- The first recipient of the Medal was Pvt. Jacob Parrott, an Assistant Surgeon in the Army who voluntarily led a command of troops to relieve a surrounded detachment of the 7th Infantry on 13-14 February 1861.
- Originally, the Medal was only presented to enlisted soldiers, but on 3 March 1863 the award was also extended to officers.
- As with any decorations or medals authorized by Congress for the armed forces, it is illegal to sell a Medal of Honor.
- There are 19 double recipients of the Medal of Honor
- The Medal has been awarded to the following number of minority recipients
 - 87 African-Americans
 - 41 Hispanics
 - 31 Asian-Americans
 - 22 Native Americans, and
 - 1 woman (Mary Walker at Bull Run on 21 July 1861)

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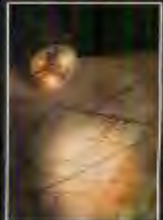
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The Miami Indians and their allies were defeated by Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August, 1794. One of the reasons for the victory was that William Wells, Little Turtle's adopted son, had met his natural family and switched sides. Wells convinced Wayne to delay his attack for one day. He explained that the Indians always fasted before battle and the extra day without food would make the Indians weaker during the hand-to-hand portion of the struggle.

Little Turtle, along with the other tribes, signed the Treaty of Greenville. He vowed never to fight the Americans again. The rest of his days were spent advising his fellow warriors not to drink, to become farmers and to get along with the white man.

Sitting Bull overwhelmed Custer's small force of 211 men

with a numerically superior force of between 2-3,000 warriors. Little Turtle, on the other hand, thoroughly outwitted and outfought the U.S. Army, not once but twice, the first time with a much smaller force and the second with a force of equal size. And when he realized that defeat was inevitable, he counseled peace. Clearly, Little Turtle was a superior warrior and leader. ☒

A graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, historian Alan Brown has a long-standing interest in Native American military tactics and history.

References:

Eckert, Allan W. (1995) *That Dark And Bloody River*. New York: Bantam Books; Utley, Robert M. & Washburn, Wilcomb E. (1977) *Indian Wars*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company; Nies, Judith. (1996) *Native American History*. New York: Ballantine Books; Young, Calvin. (1917) *Little Turtle: The Great Chief of the Miami Indian Nation*. Mt. Vernon: Windmill Publications.



Although not truly nomadic, the Miami Indians made use of transportable shelters, as these shown in this 19th Century engraving. (Library of Congress)



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frozen out, and is actively trying to get back in.

Wasting no time, SIG is delivering pistols now. H&K isn't, and it looks as if, once more, H&K is in the process of dropping the ball! I hope this is not true and H&K is able to turn it around, as they need to be a strong force in the industry, on par with SIG and Glock.

S&W's new, flagship, self-decocking police pistol, which should have been an active competitor and which was supposed to be introduced at the SHOT Show last January, still has not made its appearance.

Serious Handgun Coating

I recently had my SIG M229/R/DAK treated with "Diamondcoat," a hard, polymer coating applied by M&R in Mt. Clemens, MI (www.mfarm.com). The M&R folks did a superlative job, and the self-lubricating Diamondcoat treatment is attractive, tough, and slick. Magazines are treated, inside and out. The only surface not treated is the bore.

For a working, concealed carry gun, tough coatings like M&R's Diamond-

coat and the equally excellent NP3 and RoGuard, applied by friend Robbie Barrkman at Robar (www.robarguns.com), make a lot of sense. Dirt and grit

**USMC says:
We have plenty
of white socks.
No more needed
right now.**

do not cling to it. Only minimal lubrication is required, and the material is simultaneously hard, slick, and chemically inert. Treated guns don't rust, don't get gunked up, and the coating is extremely durable.

Superior, in my opinion, to electroplating, these coatings are uniform. There are no pinholes, buildup, thin spots, or cracks. Application requires only low heat, so metallurgy is not

modified! Nothing not to like. Recommended!

Tools for Troops, Continued...

A note from USMC Capt. Anderson, currently deployed to Iraq, and to whom we've been sending needed items for his guys; items that are hard to get otherwise:

"We have plenty of white socks. No more needed right now. However, you can add these items to the morale list:

1. Air fresheners. The porta-johns here can be exciting in the summer!
2. Sunscreen. For some reason, there is none in the supply line right now.
3. Fly swatters.
4. Sticky, roll, fly paper.

Other items:

- Cold Steel, Emerson knives, fixed and folding
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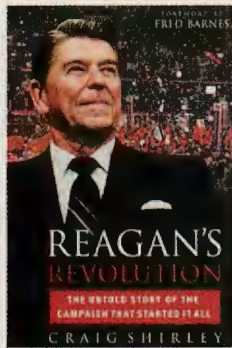
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"Reagan's Revolution" Captures Missing Chapter of Presidential History

It may be common knowledge that Ronald Reagan's presidency (1980-1988) was a key turning point in world history and in American politics. However Craig Shirley's new book *Reagan's Revolution: The Untold Story of the Campaign that Started it All* [Nelson Current, January 2005] reveals the secrets behind Reagan's first run for the presidency in 1976 — the campaign that unified and saved a dying Republican Party and launched the modern-day conservative movement. *Reagan's Revolution* is the first book to examine in detail Ronald Reagan's cam-



aign for the presidency in 1976 against incumbent president Gerald Ford; shedding light on the only undocumented chapter in the political legacy of one of the most beloved and revered presidents in American history. Historically significant and brilliantly written, *Reagan's Revolution* captures an overlooked, undocumented part of Ronald Reagan's political career. The book provides an inside look at the players, the politics, and never before published events that shaped the campaign of 1976 and beyond.

Craig Shirley is the president of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs, a prestigious conservative public relations agency located just outside of Washington, DC.

For more information about the book and author, please visit www.reagansrevolution.com

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TAURUS

Reporting For Duty

Exciting New DAO Taurus Promises to Never Stop Protecting!

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

When a factory reports working shifts 24/7, it means that its employees are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When the military says it's protecting America 24/7, it means all the time. When a pistol is called the 24/7, it means total service all the time. A big claim? You bet!

There are myriad high quality autopistols on the market, most of which I would feel good about carrying. However, like some politicians, a few of these guns have claims made about them that push the envelope. Called the 24/7, Taurus' new pistol has a name to live up to.

Being somewhat of an extension of Taurus' PT pistol program, the 24/7 is a quantum leap in all areas. After seeing

a pre-production model of the Taurus 9mm 24/7 pistol at the 2003 Shot Show, I was impressed. Upon seeing another sample in .40 S&W at this year's 2004 SHOT Show, I felt the same. Finally, in October 2004, I received a production version of a Taurus 24/7 in .40 S&W caliber (I was offered either 9mm or .40 caliber). It was worth the wait. Let's take a closer look.

There are few revolutionary features in the slide of the 24/7, but there definitely are a few. Fitted with combat 3-dot

In addition to its striker block and key lock, the Taurus 24/7 comes with a real thumb safety. Thank God!





(above) As an extra safety factor, the Taurus 24/7 can be locked up, open or closed, using a special key provided. (below) A clever loaded-chamber indicator is mounted with the extractor and can be easily felt in the dark.

sights, the 24/7's locking system is the simplified Browning short-recoil operation now used by most new pistols. The barrel fit within the slide is very good, locking up tight in battery, but the slide also has two unique features.

The first is a key lock system located on the right side of the slide behind the ejection port. A twist of a special key provided rotates the lock to prevent movement of the slide and trigger, but the magazine is not affected. The slide can also be locked to the rear and then double-locked with the key-lock. Depressing the slide lock will only allow the slide to go forward a fraction of an inch, where the lock prevents further travel. The second slide feature is its loaded chamber indicator. Using the same axis as the extractor, this indicator lies above it. When a cartridge case is chambered, it cams the indicator outward, where it can be felt or observed.

Thank God!

Now down to the 24/7's frame: Made of a robust helping of black polymer, this frame has an M1913-style light mount that accepts all tactical lights made for this mount, including those from Insight Technology and SureFire (others will soon follow). Before we get to the "thank God" part, a word or two is necessary here regarding weapon-mounted lights.

I believe an M1913 rail is a good idea on a duty size pistol, especially if it is to be carried on duty. I also believe that any such new pistol with a mount will sell better ("better to have it and not need it..."). However, I have reservations about how such a light should be used. I think such a light that is left "on" during a search will get you killed far faster than if it is pulsed, and that calls for light switches that are still not generally available. The only time a pistol light should be left "on" is when there is no danger of being injured by an assailant you can't see. I prefer to use a separate light in my support hand, holding it away from my body and pulsating it



on and off, but that will require another article.

Now for the "thank God" part. Along the left side of the frame we come to three nicely positioned and proportioned levers on the left side of the Taurus 24/7. First is the disassembly lever that will be the least often used. Next is the more-often-used slide release, and finally is the thumb safety that will be used all the time, at least by me – thank God! I believe a good manual safety is a great idea even on a double-action pistol.

Oh, I know what they say, "Revolvers never had thumb safeties," but wouldn't it have been nice? I often jokingly refer to having been a professional wrestler for 28 years, and for 17 of them I carried seven different double-action revolvers on duty, usually two of them at the same time. The number of holsters I tried during that time could only be guesstimated.

The last and best I ever used for a revolver was the "Boss" designed by Bill Rogers. It made "gun-grab" next to impossible, but believe me — if my revolver would have had a good thumb safety, I would have been much happier.

Others may not agree. Perhaps they know something I don't, but a thumb safety is always there to use, and I think any law enforcement officer with common sense will use it as extra protection from gun grab. I always teach that the best weapon retention is between the ears, but tell it to Murphy!

"...DA Handguns Have A Built-In Safety Factor!"

While the Taurus 24/7's magazine release is conventional, its double action (DA) system is less so, for two reasons. First, it's about as good as any and far better than most, and it's a true striker-fired DA. Using a smooth, rounded trigger, the 24/7 has a revolver-like feel when the trigger is pulled. It has an even draw of only about 8 pounds with very little stack-up right out of the box, and it can only get better.

What about the great DA autopistol controversy? Some hate'em, some love'em and some take'em in stride. I'm of the latter ilk, as I keep an open mind. Having owned and used some fifty Model 1911 pistols after my first at the age of 14, I'll probably die swearing it's the best. However, as a recruit in the academy I was shooting DX scores with a DA revolver, and I found the transition to a DA autopistol easy when my agency first adopted one. If the DA pistol is a substitute for training, it's a good one.

Although it seems to be overlooked by many, DA handguns have a built-in safety factor, not a safety, but an edge, and this pertains to unintentional/accidental (whatever we're calling them this week) discharges. When the balloon goes up with a target that moves, screams at you and has a weapon in his/her hand, and your finger is on the trigger, you are less likely to press it all the way if it is a DA trigger. I believe this is true generally, but especially with those who are less well trained. The long pull of a DA trigger requires more deliberate action than a single action, and therefore offers a chance to change your mind.

As a young police officer with the LAPD, I almost shot an armed subject

once, being about one-third through my DA stroke by the time I saw his pistol fall from his hand. I barely had time to back off the trigger, but I did. If I'd have had a single-action pistol, he would have had a major owe-ee, which, in this case would have been a neighborhood improvement, but that's not the issue.

"... Any Mention Of A Double Strike Capability Is Pure *dola p'chon!*"

Differing from some other double-action pistols, that of the Taurus 24/7 is also repeatable. Like a DA revolver, the trigger can be pulled over and over without having to be reset by the movement of the slide. This comes in very handy for practicing your double action technique, especially when the pistol is unloaded. That latter part was meant to be a joke to hit home the importance of making sure any gun is totally unloaded before any dry-fire practice, as well as pointed away from anything you don't want to shoot. I could tell horror stories that would make you want to bang your head against the wall.

Dry firing practice is the only usable thing about the repeatable DA. Unless the handgun is a DA revolver, any mention of a double strike capability is pure *dola p'chon* (for my Navajo buddies), *dola*, meaning "bull!" However, while this problem is associated with DA revolver training, I believe it stems from handgun shooting in general. When practicing rapid shots with a handgun one develops a cadence. In case of a misfire with a revolver, one simply continues to pull the trigger, sometimes barely aware that there even was a misfire. The same holds true with many autopistols, and I believe it is the conditioning to keep shooting that takes over, rather than the attempt to get a misfire to go.

In a revolver, one gets rid of a misfire by pulling the trigger

ACCURACY CHART/.40 S&W CARTRIDGE

	Muzzle Vel.	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Black Hills 180 gr. JHP	1011 fps	3.04"	3.52"	3.28"
Cor-Bon 140 gr. DPX	1202 fps	2.88"	3.19"	3.09"
Federal 165 gr. Pers. Def.	1058 fps	3.13"	3.22"	3.17"
Wolff 180 gr. FMJ	998 fps	3.34"	3.51"	3.44"

Five 5-Shot 25-Yrd Bench Rest Groups With Pro Chrony LE. Elev: 7000', Temp: 73°, Humid: 48%



(above) Johnston found the Taurus 24/7 a pleasure to shoot, its "Ribber" overmolded grip soaking up much of the recoil. The pistol never malfunctioned during the testing. (left) The 24/7 is equally at home with the Insight Technology M3 Tactical Illuminator (seen here attached to its rail) and with Surefire weapon lights.

again, but in an autopistol, one gets rid of it by hitting the bottom of the magazine to make sure it's seated, and retracting the slide to chamber a fresh round, or perhaps a round at all. I've seen cases where a shooter under stress yanked the trigger several times on an empty pistol with the slide locked to the rear. Make a mental note of what to do if your hear a "click" when shooting your autopistol and then practice the drill.

Below all of the above considerations lies the grip frame of the Taurus 24/7 and it is a good one. Not only does the pistol



The 24/7 can be field stripped as shown in about a minute or less. Reassembly is about as fast.

TAURUS 24/7

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	9mm, .40 S&W (tested) & .45 ACP
Muzzle Velocity:	1100 fps.
Operation:	Short recoil, semi-automatic, double action only
Barrel Length:	4 inches
Overall Length:	7 inches
Weight:	27.2 oz.
Safety:	Thumb safety, firing pin safety and key-lock
Feed Device:	15 round box magazine
Sights:	3-dot combat
Finish:	Matte black steel and polymer
Price:	\$578.00 (sugg. ret.)

point naturally in the hand (important), but it is also comfortable, thanks to the texture Taurus calls "Ribber." Amounting to a clever play on words, the term, "Ribber" consists of rubber-like ribs that feel to the hand similar to how ribbed soles feel to the feet. Overmolded to the front portion of the grip, "Ribber" also covers the finger grooves on the front strap and even helps adjust them to various hand sizes in addition to providing a grip with excellent purchase and comfort.

Disassembly

Although field stripping the Taurus 24/ isn't as simple as some, it is very safe for more than one reason. First, before the pistol can be disassembled, the slide must be locked back, which automatically clears the chamber, and this is required before the takedown lever can be rotated down for removal. Once it was rotated 90 degrees, I used the rim of a cartridge

Continued on page 74

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We all know what American Hot Rodders can do to cars by modifying and making them faster and better. Looks like Wilson Tactical is following in their footsteps with their new Combat Shotguns. What starts life as a Remington 870 Magnum 12 gauge shotgun is soon modified to Wilson Tactical combat specifications. Features include 3-inch chamber with 18-inch cylinder-bore barrel; MMC adjustable ghost-ring rear sight with ramp front sight with Tium inserts; extended magazine tube with seven-round total capacity; side-saddle shell carrier in four-or six-round capacity; SureFire Picatinny rail forend (no light included); AR-15/M16-style collapsible buttstock and pistol grip; high visibility follower; extra power heavy-duty stainless magazine springs; magazine band with sling stud; oversize safety. Available in black or O.D. coating.

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Buffer Technologies, Dept SOF

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to pry out the combo takedown lever/cam. With the takedown lever removed, the slide release can be depressed to allow the slide to be removed off the front of the frame. However, even if during all this, one forgets to remove the magazine, and the slide chambers another round on its way, the 24/7 does not have to be dry fired before the slide is removed. This will go the long haul in preventing more holes put in police lockers from another popular DA polymer pistol over the past couple of decades.

With the slide removed, the captive recoil spring is a cinch to remove along with the barrel. Reassembly of the slide group is also easy, but insertion of the takedown lever required the use of the special key to depress its retaining spring.

Trigger Time

Since my sample Taurus 24/7 was shipped shortly after the ridiculous magazine ban ended, two hi-cap magazines came with the pistol, each holding 15 rounds of .40 S&W ammunition. This means that private citizens, who never have backup, can now carry more rounds to protect their lives.

My wife, Nancy, and I are having so much fun shooting the .40 S&W caliber Taurus 24-7 that we are far from done as I report on it here. The 24/7 digested every round of .40 S&W ammunition we put through it including COR-BON's brand new 140 gr. DPX (Deep Penetrating X Bullet).

CONTACT SHEET

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In the accuracy department, the 24/7 took a slight bit of getting used to, much like going back to shooting a double-action revolver, but I was soon able to churn out some respectable groups at 25 yards. The 24/7 shoots every time and hits where you point it. It will do its part and a lot more, especially if you're counting on it all day and night. A fine selection of holsters will soon follow.

This Just In!

Taurus will not only offer the 24/7 hi-cap in .45 ACP for 2005, but has also designed a totally new single-column compact model in this caliber. Look for it soon. In the meantime, for more information, contact Taurus International Mfg., Inc.,

Dept. SOF, 16175 Northwest Ave., Miami, FL 33014; phone: 800-37-3776, on the web at www.taurususa.com.

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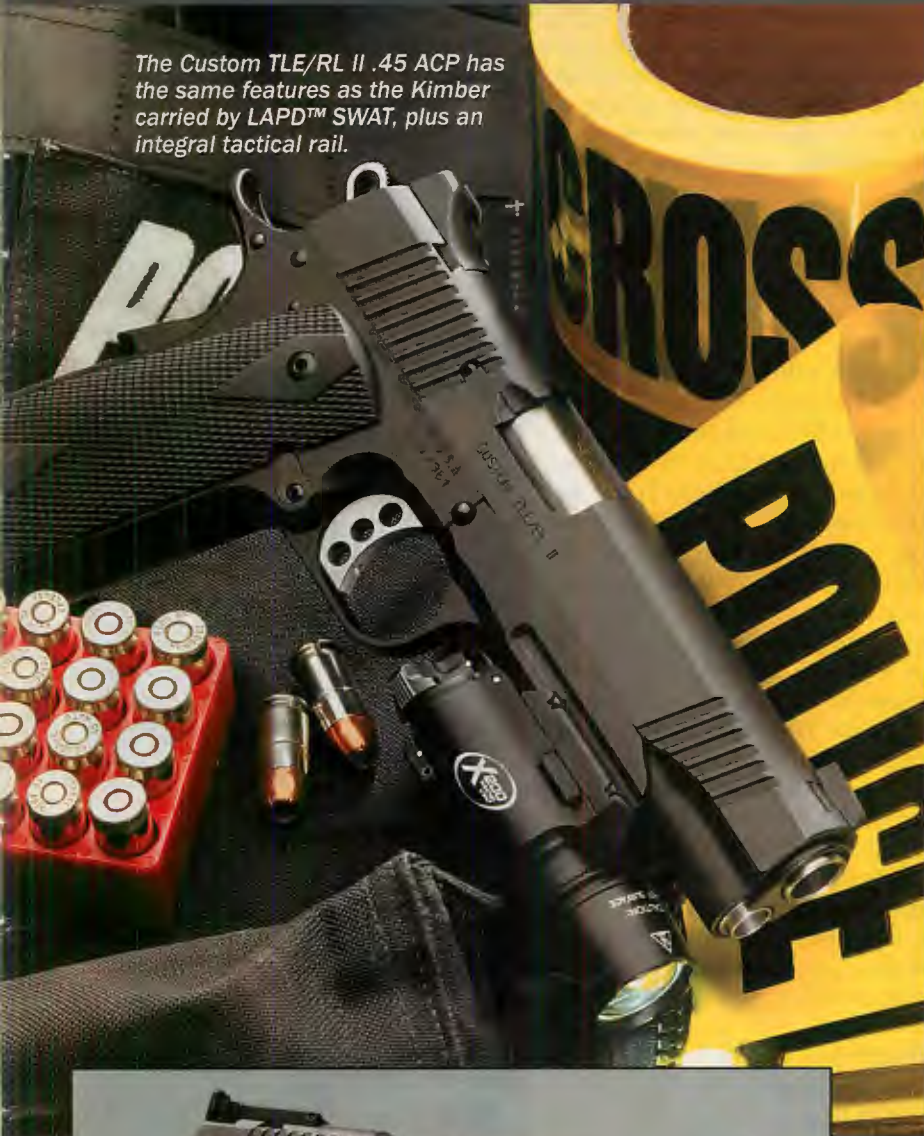
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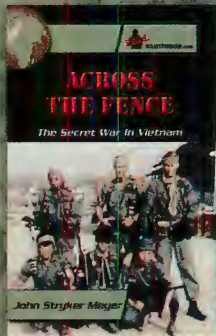
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Flak

Continued from page 10

nor do we recommend particular contractors in a given field if you decide to go. The men we know who reached a decision that worked for them, made contact with someone who had been there as a contractor, as through a chat room, to learn and see what their experience was.

The Fine Points of Fine Ammo

I am responding to the June 2005 *Soldier of Fortune* magazine's, "Sniper Diary" article by Dale Cooper. On page 43, Mr. Cooper wrote, "His ballistic-tipped, hollow point bullet clipped an unseen power line hanging across the alley as it streaked to the target, but Morgan's 175-grain boat-tail hit the man dead center in the chest." The bullet he is referring to is Sierra's #2275 175-grain MatchKing and it is a hollow-point boat-tail bullet with no "ballistic tip." "Ballistic Tip" refers to one of our competitor's bullet's design/name. We do make some varmint bullets, (.224 and .243) with acetyl resin tips which we call BlitzKings, but we do not make anything larger. If our hollow-point had an acetyl resin tip in it, it would no longer be a hollow-point but a BlitzKing. We support our troops and pray they all return safely.

Carroll Pilant
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Snuffy Rules

Thanks for producing a motivating magazine. I'm deployed to Egypt with the army and just read an article in SOF about a woman who tried to send a package to some soldiers on the front lines. The amount of red tape she had to tolerate was disheartening and I salute her for her perseverance. You might let her know, rather than addressing a package to "any service member" using the name "Joe Snuffy" will communicate the same thing, at least in the army, if she has a unit address.

Thank you all for your support. God bless.

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LONGEST KILL • Continued from page 53

was marked for death," said Garza. He and Flannery climbed down from the building and ran through 1,000 yards of heavy fire to link up with the main body of Alpha Company to their front.

Rebuilding After Ramadi

Before coming to SSP, Dow was the NCOIC in charge of the Scout Sniper School at Camp Pendleton, but everyone in his last class in June 2004 failed. They couldn't cut it when it came to stalking. But when this deployment came up, SSP was forced to fill its ranks with shooters, not stalkers. Corporal Matthew M. Michael, who rode into OIF as a medium machine gunner in 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Charley Company and again with the same company as a Mk 19 heavy machine gunner in Fallujah, is one of the Marines who failed the stalking side of the 10-week course, but he is a good shooter, and that's what SSP needs in Ramadi.

Dow says Michael, a 23-year-old team leader from Hillsboro, New Mexico, will be allowed to return to the sniper school at Camp Pendleton after this deployment to see if he can master the art of slipping up on instructors and taking a shot without being detected. Like other veterans on their third deployment to Iraq, Michael is apprehensive about his third deployment. "When you don't see kids playing in the street, it's a sure sign someone's about to rock your world," Michael said a month before leaving Camp Pendleton.

While Dow is happy to have so many Fallujah veterans on his team in Ramadi, he's going to have to rebuild SSP from the ground up when he gets home and that could be a problem, because there's a severe shortage of snipers Marine Corps-wide. "We are being deployed so frequently," said Dow, "battalions like 1/5 can't afford to send Marines to the sniper school for 10 weeks."

Gary, who is about to trade his desert cammies for some civvies, says the Marine Corps also needs to revamp its sniper training.

"It's Vietnam-era training. We're no longer fighting in jungles, but in densely-populated cities in places like Fallujah and Ramadi," said Gary, "and we need to teach future snipers how to survive in those hostile environments." ☒

Veteran SOF reporter Dale B. Cooper was imbedded with the Marines in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and continues to cover their combat exploits.

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Continued from page 13

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Zogby: Americans Reject Gun Grabs for Anti-Terrorism Measure

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) today released the results of a recent poll it commissioned, conducted by Zogby International, which shows overwhelming rejection by likely American voters of the notion that banning guns would be effective in the fight against terrorism.

Asked whether they agreed or disagreed that banning guns would reduce the threat from terrorists, respondents to the poll disagreed by a margin of 75%. Only one in five respondents supported the notion, and 5% were not sure. Zogby polled 1,009 likely voters chosen at random nationwide, with a margin error of plus/minus 3.2 percent. Polling occurred between March 30 and April 1.

SAF Founder Alan Gottlieb said the results of this poll clearly show that anti-gunners trying to use terrorism as an excuse to pass more restrictive gun laws are out of step with the American public.

"It's been pretty clear for a long time," Gottlieb observed, "that gun grabbers don't have a clue. All they want to do is take guns away from people, any guns, all guns, and they don't care how much blood they dance through or how much false hysteria they spread to get the job done."

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Marksman Qualifies for ESPN Outdoor Games

Sergeant Ryan Hadden from the Army Marksmanship Unit at Ft. Benning missed only one target to win ESPN's Great Outdoor Games qualifier, beating out a field of eight other shot-gunners, including former Olympic contenders, and experienced Great Outdoor Games shooters. The Games will be held July 7-10 at Tenoroc Shooting Sports and Training Range, in Lakeland, Fla.

Hadden holds two national trap-shooting titles and has won a number of top honors, including gold medals in several of the Army's zone championship matches. The Army sent four members of its marksmanship unit to the qualifier, including Hadden and Sergeant 1st Class Shawn Duloherly, a longtime member of the unit and a 16-year member of the U.S. Shooting Team. The qualifier was held at the Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club, for broadcast on ESPN2, May 12 and 15.

National Defense Council Foundation

Over the past 30 years, SOF magazine has taken pleasure in being able to sponsor myriad medical and relief missions, including the gathering and distribution of untold tons of supplies for those in desperate situations, usually as a result of communist aggression or tyrannical oppression. We often worked in concert with like-minded charities and individuals, one of whom is Andy Messing, of the National Defense Council Foundation.

NDCF is essentially a think tank with a charitable arm. For insight on what they do, below is an excerpt from a recent e-mail from Messing. If you want to put some money where it will do some hard work, go to www.ndcf.org and see what they're about. Good medical supplies are always needed, as well.

In spite of the turmoil in Haiti, there is a beauty about the place...most of it is in the promise of a brighter future through their children.... That's why NDCF did a second Medical Mission in the recent months to this piece of Africa next door to us, helping Haitians stay in the Country they love. We were able to turn over a very high-value load of medicines (heavy

Continued on page 81

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increase the legitimacy of those elections, so they pressured everybody to participate.

Irregularities and Fraud

"Sunni Arabs did not vote. The Turkmen were pressured by Turkey, which was pressured by the U.S., to participate in the elections.

"Turkey, as sole supporter of the Turkmen, has a leverage on the Turkmen and they are obliged to follow their instructions.

"Elections in northern Iraq were marred by irregularities and fraud in a scale seen only in communist countries.

"Over 800,000 people in Mosul were prevented from voting. Over two million Turkmen votes were exchanged with Kurdish ones. Over 100,000 Kurds brought from Erbil and Sulaimania had multiple votes up to five times. Hun-



Esprit d'Corps

dreds of complaints were forwarded to the election committee, but to no avail.

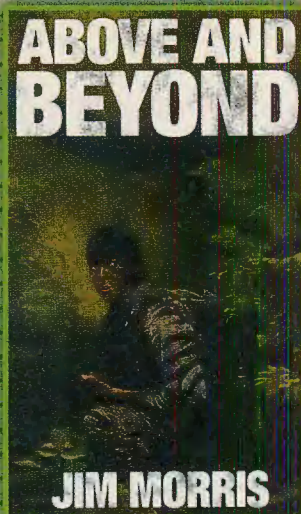
"The Syrians, Turks, and Iranians won't stand for autonomy. Turkey won't allow Kirkuk to belong to the Kurds. There's no oil in the Sunni triangle. The oil must be controlled by the central government. It's a chessboard checkmate since the U.S. went in," Taylor said.

"In Sept 2003, U.S. troops tried to get in Sulaimaniyah to pull down Sunburst (Kurdish) flags claiming territory, the mob rolled the hummers and put them on fire. The area is controlled by armed warlords. They

know how strapped the Americans are," Taylor said.

"If the Americans try to disarm the Kurds, there will be trouble, because they don't trust the Americans. If the situation flares up, the Kurds have organized militia, and it will become a

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fight. The U.S. would need another 30-40,000 troops. That could happen very easily."

"The Kurds, with unconditional American support, are living their Golden Age, misusing and abusing their dominant powers to the level of German collaborators during World War II," Ketene said.

A Very Bleak Future

"They have earned the hatred of the Arabs, Turkmen and Assyrians. I am afraid that they face a very bleak future when the winds turn in the reverse direction."

"Kirkuk has been for centuries and still is a predominantly Turkmen province.

"It is utterly incomprehensible that 2.5 million Turkmen should come under the rule of 3.5 million Kurds. Turkmen have been living in present Iraq for over a millennium.

"One hundred ethnic Turkmen, protesting against their lack of representation in the new constitution, began a hunger strike in Baghdad in February 2004," Mofak said.

"The strikers, who included intellectuals, writers, students, women, gathered in and around about half a dozen large tents erected outside the main U.S. military headquarters in the Iraqi capital.

"We are here to protest because they ignore the role of Turkmen in the new constitutions in Iraq," said a spokesman Mohammed Jasim Aga Oglo.

A banner strung up in front of the Turkmen strikers' camp said "Today a pen and a strike, tomorrow a Kalashnikov to kill those who would deny us our rights." ✕

Dr. Martin Brass is an international lawyer and longtime SOF contributor.

Bulletin Board

Continued from page 79

on expensive antibiotics, diabetes meds, heart meds, etc.) worth about \$25,000 to Mother Teresa's Nuns, the Sisters of Charity, for their Doctors to use.

They had just returned from a Mass honoring their Pope who had passed just hours before. I think us showing up unannounced raised the spirits, especially given that we had kiddie school supplies in the mix too. We even got smiles outta these stoic ladies of God before we left. When you look at the screaming misery of those slums, which occasionally echo gunfire, that the humble and abandoned, yet brave, little children who are being cared for so carefully by these dedicated Sisters, these poorest of the poor, it throws you so off-balance. The meager effort NDCF has done in Haiti (4 Tons of meds there since 1993, 141 Tons to 12 other countries) is a mere grain of sand to what these people need, I am so frustrated to the point of guilt. I look at my priorities and examine the priorities of others, which left me pondering my worth, and even my mortality, which I thought I had come to grips with as an Infantry soldier in combat at age 20. When I came back from a Med Mission in Somalia over a decade ago, it took me a while to decompress. Fortunately, I am back on the Ark Angel in Key West "Dick the Dog" surrounded by neighbors that are wonderful so, the adjustment to Paradise should be rapid. In July or so, I will do yet another Med Mission to my old stomping ground, El Salvador, to see Father Flavin Mucci, a man who has a knack at putting life in perspective. By then I'll need the battery charge from a Pro that does good works for a living. That's my report....

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"Be Not Afraid"

BY LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, USMC (RET.)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – "Be not afraid!" No better eulogy can be written for Pope John Paul II than this exhortation from his inaugural Mass on Oct. 22, 1978. His simple statement resonated from the halls of the Kremlin to the streets of Eastern Europe, from the jungles of Central America to the oppressed tending rice paddies in Communist China. These words even touched hearts here in secular America.

Those three words – "Be not afraid" – from Matthew, quoting Christ's command to a group of fearful men in peril on a dark and dangerous sea – defined who he was and what he did. At every opportunity, this man who would become the most loved, viewed and likely one of the most feared men on earth urged fearlessness in the face of all that life offers – right up to death itself.

Loved? Certainly. Viewed? No doubt. More than 100 million people in 129 countries can claim to have seen him – not on a screen, but in person. But feared? Yes, John Paul was indeed feared by despots and dictators, the cruel and those who would deny the sanctity of human life that he espoused in every sermon and in all of his writings. His faith, strength of character and devotion to the dignity of every person informed everything he did. Those virtues are terrifying to tyrants and can change hearts in ways that military force and economic might never can.

Best of all, his life will continue to inspire. Few know the given name of any of this pope's predecessors. But almost everyone who has ever heard of John Paul II knows that he was once a parish priest, Karol Wojtyla. And because of all that has been said and written of him, hundreds of millions of people know that his courage and steadfastness were forged in the crucible of adversity – first under the boot of Nazi oppression and ultimately beneath the Soviet proxies who ruled Poland after World War II.

In the early 1950s, the communist regime constructed Nowa Huta, a "model city" on the outskirts of Krakow. When Archbishop Karol Wojtyla discovered that this new "worker's paradise" wouldn't have a church, he set out to change their minds. He lobbied the apparatchiks. They ignored him. He went to the Communist Party authorities. They threatened him. So he went to the people – and began badgering the bureaucracy for a permit to construct a place of worship.

Increasingly vexed, officials vowed to restrict the annual Corpus Christi procession through Krakow to a single walk around the cathedral. The threat prompted a wonderful example of the future pope's courage and wit: "I am inclined to think that such actions do not favor the process of normalization between the church and the state."

In 1967, when the permit to build a church in Nowa Huta was finally granted, it was Archbishop Wojtyla who swung a pickaxe to break ground.

Though his message was spiritual – not political – the demise of the Evil Empire can be traced to his tenure as Archbishop of Krakow. Karol Wojtyla had braved threats of arrest to preach: "We are citizens of our country, the citizens of our city, but we are also a people of God, which has its own Christian sensibility. We will continue to demand our rights. They are obvious, just as our presence here is obvious. We will demand!"

In 1979, as Pope John Paul II, he took that message back

to his native Poland and inspired millions of his countrymen, who ignored government intimidation to hear and see him. His message, "Be not afraid," resonated in Gdansk, with the rise of "Solidarnosc" – Lech Walesa's famous "Solidarity" labor union. On New Year's Day 1982, less than a month

after the communists in Poland declared martial law and arrested thousands of Solidarity activists, John Paul denounced the "false peace of totalitarian regimes."

There was no moral equivocation. The message was clear, and the result was certain: Truth was superior to falsehood; the light of hope would dispel the darkness of despair; and the freedom inborn in every human being could not be crushed by all the theories, laws and chains devised by man.

John Paul II didn't just admonish others to "Be not afraid," he lived that way himself. Though he'd nearly been killed by an assassin's bullet in 1981, he insisted on traveling again as soon as he was able. Some were critical of his decision to do so, but he was never rash or unresponsive to good advice.

In 1983, while the pope was en route to visit El Salvador, our government intercepted a communication between two FMLN terrorist cells, discussing where the Marxist guerrillas would ambush his motorcade. I was dispatched to the Papal Nuncio with the raw intercept to urge that he advise the pope to use an alternative route. He did so, and the ambush was averted.

As I was leaving, the cardinal sought to reassure my concerns about sending a message to the papal aircraft by telling me: "Don't be concerned, we sent it in code. No one has ever broken the Vatican code."

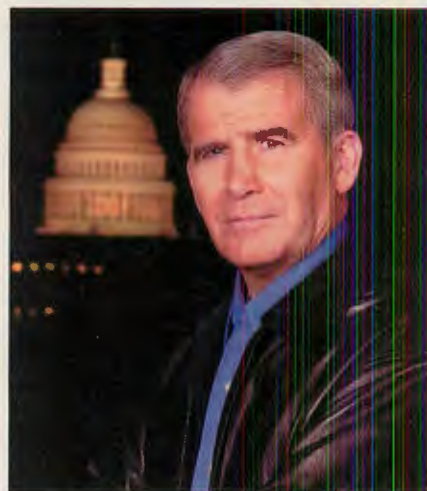
By the time he left us, Pope John Paul II had faced the hectoring of Sandinista mobs in Managua, told Castro to free his people and delivered the same message to Mikhail Gorbachev. Through it all, his life was a witness to his faith. We are poorer for his departure, but eminently better for his life.

In a world that increasingly devalues human life and exalts "choice" at the altar of the self, the selfless service of Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II, inspired billions and shook the foundations of the world. "Be not afraid," indeed.

Oliver North is host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel. The opinions expressed above are his own and do not represent the views of Fox News and/or Soldier Of Fortune.

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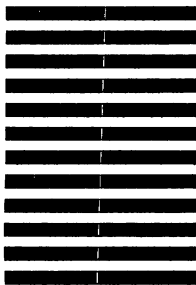
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